



Sen. Kamala Harris says the powerful seek to divide America

By JUANA SUMMERS

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said Sunday that those in power are trying to turn people against each other, which she says is "not our America."

Harris, a first-term U.S. senator from California who announced her candidacy last Monday, rallied supporters outside City Hall in Oakland, her hometown

and where she served as a prosecutor before becoming the state attorney general. The event was the formal kickoff for her campaign.

"We are here because the American Dream and our American democracy are under attack and on the line like never before," she said.

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Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris, of California, waves to the crowd as she formally launches her presidential campaign at a rally in her hometown of Oakland, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019. Associated Press

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"And we are here at this moment in time because we must answer a fundamental question: Who are we? Who are we as Americans? So, let's answer that question to the world and each other right here and right now. America, we are better than this."

Harris also said that racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and transphobia are real in the U.S. "They are age-old forms of hate with new fuel. And we need to speak that truth so we can deal with it," she said.

Harris cast herself as the kind of leader who can unify the country and would fight for the needs of all Americans.

"I'm running for president because I love my country.

I'm running to be a president by the people. Of the people.

For all the people," she said and echoed the words she has used in courtrooms and has adopted as her campaign's slogan: "My whole life, I've only had one client: The people."

The daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, Harris entered the race on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Campaign aides say she has drawn inspiration from Shirley Chisholm, who in 1972 became the first black woman to run for president from a major party.

If Harris were to win the White House, she would be the first African-American woman and first person of Asian descent to be president.

Her first news conference

as a candidate was on the campus of Howard University, the historically black college in the nation's capital that she attended as an undergraduate. On Friday, she was in South Carolina to speak to members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, of which she is a member.

Harris' campaign is expected to highlight her career as a prosecutor as part of her rationale for seeking the presidency. Harris was the first black woman elected district attorney in California, as well as the first woman, first African-American and first Asian-American to hold that job. Some of her tenure as attorney general, particularly relating to criminal justice, has come under early scrutiny.

Harris is among the first major Democrats to jump into what is expected to be a crowded 2020 presidential contest.

Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York have announced exploratory committees.

Former Maryland Rep. John Delaney and Julian Castro, federal housing chief under President Barack Obama and a former San Antonio mayor, already are in the race.

Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Bernie Sanders of Vermont may also run.

In her Oakland speech, Harris said she sees this year as an "inflection point" in American history and that

she is best positioned to unite a divided country.

"Even though we have powerful forces trying to sow hate and division, the truth is that, as Americans, we have much more in common than what separates us," according to her prepared remarks.

After the rally, Harris planned to her first trip to Iowa as a presidential candidate. In the weeks before last November's elections, Harris traveled to the lead-off caucus state to campaign on behalf of Democrats, and also visited other early-voting states.

Harris's campaign will be based in Baltimore and led by Juan Rodriguez who managed her 2016 Senate campaign. Aides say the campaign will have a second office in Oakland. □

12 immigrant workers at Trump golf course fired, lawyer says



In this Tuesday, June 7, 2016 file photo, a photographer reflected in a golf cart at the the Trump National Golf Club Westchester in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A dozen immigrant workers at one of President Donald Trump's golf clubs in New York who are in the U.S. illegally were fired this month even though managers had known about their legal status for years, a lawyer for the workers said Saturday.

As the president railed during the partial government shutdown against immigrants coming into the country illegally, a manager at the Trump National Golf Club in Westchester County called a dozen immigrant workers into a room one by one Jan. 18

and fired them, said lawyer Anibal Romero.

Many of them had worked at the club for a dozen or more years, he said, and managers knew they had submitted phony documents but looked the other way.

"This is bogus. People have been there for 12, 13, 14 years," said Romero. He added, referring to one of the president's sons, "One had the keys to Eric Trump's bedroom."

The firings come after workers at another Trump club in New Jersey came forward last month to say managers there had hired them knowing they were in the country illegally, and had even helped one obtain phony documents.

The crackdown at the New York club was first reported by The Washington Post. The Associated Press left messages with The Trump Organization seeking com-

ment. Eric Trump depicted the firings to the Post as a normal course of business. "We are making a broad effort to identify any employee who has given false and fraudulent documents to unlawfully gain employment," he said. "Where identified, any individual will be terminated immediately."

He added that the "the system is broken."

Trump has repeatedly cast the millions of immigrants in the country illegally as a scourge on the health of the economy, taking jobs from American citizens. He has said they also bring drugs and crime over the border.

Trump turned over day-to-day management of his business to Eric and his other adult son, Donald Jr., when he took the oath of office two years ago. The Trump Organization owns or manages 17 golf clubs

around the world.

One man who was fired, a former maintenance worker from Mexico hired in 2005, told The Post that he started to cry when he was told of the news and pleaded with management to reconsider.

"I told them they needed to consider us," said Gabriel Sedano. "I'd given the best of myself to this job."

"I'd never done anything wrong, only work and work," he added. "They said they didn't have any comments to make."

Romero, who also represents immigrant workers at Trump's golf course in Bedminster, New Jersey, said he has called New York state authorities and the FBI to look into hiring practices at the New York club.

"There was a don't ask, don't tell attitude at the club," he said. "We are demanding a full investigation." □

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White House dangles threat of another shutdown over wall

By DEB RIECHMANN,
WASHINGTON (AP) — Two days after the record-long shutdown ended, the White House made clear Sunday that President Donald Trump is prepared to shutter the government again without a border wall deal from Congress.

The president's standoff with Democrats on Capitol Hill is far from over and the clock is ticking — the spending bill Trump signed on Friday funds the government agencies that had been shut down for 35 days only until Feb. 15.

It's unclear if the Democrats will budge. Trump seemed girded for battle, sending out a series of online messages that foreshadowed the upcoming fight with lawmakers. "BUILD A WALL & CRIME WILL FALL!" he tweeted.

Is Trump prepared to shut down the government again in three weeks?

"Yeah, I think he actually is," acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said. "He doesn't want to shut the government down, let's make that very clear. He doesn't want to declare a national emergency."

But Mulvaney said that at "the end of the day, the president's commitment is to defend the nation and he will do it with or without Congress."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, a member of the Democratic leadership in the House, said his colleagues are looking for "evidence-based" legislation. "Shutdowns are not legitimate negotiating tactics when there's a public poli-

cy disagreement between two branches of government," he said.

The lynchpin in the standoff is Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion for his prized wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, a project Democrats consider an ineffective, wasteful monument to a ridiculous Trump campaign promise. California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the leading Republican in the House, said Democrats have funded border barriers in the past and are refusing this time simply because Trump is asking for it.

"The president is the only one who has been reasonable in these negotiations," he said.

Mulvaney wouldn't directly answer whether Trump would take less than \$5.7 billion, but indicated the president was willing to negotiate.

"The president has already gone to the Democrats and said, look, it's not a 2,000-mile sea-to-shining-sea wall."

Trump has asserted there is a "crisis" at the southern border requiring a wall, blaming previous presidents and Congress for failing to overhaul an immigration system that has allowed millions of people to live in the U.S. illegally.

Last month, he put that number at 35 million, while on Sunday he pegged it at 25.7 million-plus — figures offered without evidence. "I'm not exactly sure where the president got that number this morning," Mulvaney said. Both are higher than government and private estimates.

His homeland security chief cited "somewhere" between 11 million and 22 million last month. In November, the nonpartisan Pew Research Center reported 10.7 million in 2016 — the lowest in a decade.

The president also tweeted Sunday that the cost of illegal immigration so far this year was nearly \$19 billion; he didn't cite a source.

Jeffries said that Democrats are willing to invest in additional infrastructure, especially at legal ports of entry where the majority of drugs come into the country. □



A family leaves to apply for asylum in the United States, at the border, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, in Tijuana, Mexico.

Associated Press



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Louisiana murder suspect caught at grandma's Virginia home



This photo provided by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office shows Dakota Theriot on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

GONZALES, La. (AP) — A 21-year-old man suspected of killing his parents and three other people — including a girl he was dating — was arrested Sunday when he drove up with a gun to his grandmother's house in Virginia, a sheriff said.

On Saturday, Dakota Theriot shot and killed three people — the woman believed to be his girlfriend, her brother and father — in Louisiana's Livingston Parish before taking her father's pickup truck, driving to neighboring Ascension Parish, and shooting his parents, according to authorities.

Theriot's grandmother in Warsaw, Virginia, had checked into a hotel Saturday night, fearing he might show up there, Richmond

County Sheriff Stephan B. Smith said in a phone interview. The woman asked authorities to check her house Sunday morning to ensure it was safe before she returned.

While deputies were there, Smith said, Theriot drove up with a firearm pointed out the window of a pickup. A sheriff's statement said deputies sought cover and challenged Theriot, who then dropped the gun and was arrested without incident. Smith said the pickup Theriot drove apparently was the one taken in Louisiana. In Louisiana, at a trailer where the suspect's parents lived, drops of blood trailed out to the front steps from the bedroom where Keith and Elizabeth Theriot were shot. In the bedroom, blood-soaked pillows were strewn on a bed, and patches of what appeared to be dried blood were on the floor. Dozens of stuffed animals decorated the room.

Kim Mincks and Jacob Chastant also lived in the trailer and were friends with the Theriots. Mincks said she was in the house at the opposite end of the trailer when the shooting happened but added she didn't hear anything. Law enforcement officers came into her room Saturday morning and woke her.

"They said something terrible happened here. 'Get up, get dressed and walk outside,' " she recalled them saying.

Mincks and Chastant said Dakota Theriot had struggled with drugs over the years, had violent outbursts, and had recently been kicked out of the trailer.

"We know he had a drug problem. He got kicked out last Monday because of the drug problem. His dad kicked him out of here. He


did have a violent streak," Mincks said.

Theriot will be brought back to Ascension Parish to be booked on two counts of first-degree murder, home invasion, and illegal use of weapons, said a statement by Ascension Parish Sheriff Bobby Webre and Livingston Parish Sheriff Jason Ard. Authorities have identified the victims in Livingston Parish as Billy Ernest, 43; Tanner Ernest, 17; and Summer Ernest, 20. Ard said Summer Ernest and Dakota Theriot were in a relationship and that Theriot had been living with her family for a few weeks.

Authorities said earlier that Keith Theriot survived the shooting long enough to let them know who shot him. According to Webre, officials got a "dying declaration from him, and only enough information to let us know that it was his son that committed this act."

Mincks and Chastant only returned to the trailer Sunday morning, worried Dakota Theriot might come back. Mincks said she'd known Keith and Elizabeth Theriot for about two years and described them as wonderful people. Keith Theriot was a disabled veteran who played a wicked guitar, and Elizabeth Theriot worked at a nearby Dollar General Store, they said. Keith Theriot had four children, all boys, they said. "Give you the shirt off their back. They loved everybody. Never met a stranger. Loved each other. Just a happy couple," she said. But the relationship between Dakota Theriot and his parents, especially his father, was troubled. She and Chastant described an incident in which Chastant had to pull Dakota Theriot off his parents during a physical altercation. □

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Analysis: Give 1st round to Pelosi in shutdown skirmish

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the year's first test of divided government, give round one to Nancy Pelosi. And it wasn't really competitive. When the record 35-day partial federal shutdown began before Christmas, Pelosi had just won a vote-by-vote struggle for enough Democratic support to become House speaker. To secure that job, the 78-year-old House veteran had to overcome critics' arguments that she had been party leader for too long and wasn't Democrats' best bet to appeal to diverse, social media savvy audiences.

By the time President Donald Trump capitulated Friday, ending the shutdown, Pelosi had burnished her image as the shrewd, steely and unquestioned leader of her party. That makes her a formidable opponent in what looms as a perilous two years for the White House before the 2020 election.

She had kept Democrats united as public pressure built to end the standoff. And she stood up to Trump repeatedly, challenging his intelligence ("Let's give him to time to think it — oh, think, did I say think?") and even exercising her power as speaker to block him from using the House chamber to deliver a State of the Union address planned for this Tuesday.

Trump "found out that Pelosi is no pushover," said former Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., who once headed the House GOP campaign organization.

Backers celebrated her triumph by repeatedly reposting a month-old video of an unruffled Pelosi emerging from a televised Oval Office confrontation with Trump, coolly easing sunglasses onto her face and striding toward reporters.

"I've heard people say to me, 'It looks like we really did elect the right person as speaker,'" Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo., said days before Trump's surrender.

Pelosi demurred when

asked whether the shutdown had been a test between herself and Trump. "I don't see this as any power play," she told reporters Friday.

But actually, it unmistakably was a contest between Washington's two power centers, each gauging the other's tenacity and smarts. In a city where perception begets influence, Pelosi clearly emerged with the upper hand. That could set the tone for skirmishes ahead, including investigations that the Democratic-led House, armed with subpoena power, plans into Trump's businesses and his 2016 presidential campaign's connections to Russia.

"@SpeakerPelosi should give the State of the Union since she's obviously the one running the country," tweeted Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif.

Immediately ahead is the still unresolved question of how much money, if any, Congress gives him to build the wall he along the U.S.-Mexico border. The short-term bill that Trump signed Friday reopening government will lapse Feb. 15. With three weeks to find a border security compromise, Republicans are using that agreement as a test of Pelosi's credibility.

"Trust is earned, & Washington can use more of it. POTUS trusted Sen Schumer & Spkr Pelosi & the promise that we can negotiate border security funding in the next 3 weeks," tweeted Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla. He referred to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and used the acronym for president of the United States.

House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy of California insisted that Trump had not surrendered.

"No. He knows the American people are hurting. He put the American people first, so they can get paid. Three weeks to negotiate," he said in a brief interview. Pelosi's upward trajectory during the shutdown contrasted with Trump's, which plunged in the opposite direction.

The president abruptly rejected a deal on Dec. 19 that would have temporarily averted a shutdown and given bargainers time to seek a border security deal. GOP and Democratic congressional leaders believed he had accepted that agreement and were stunned when he reneged under criticism from conservative pundits.

On Friday, Trump accepted the same offer. But in the interim, he endured numerous self-inflicted wounds.

Polls showed voters blamed largely him for the shutdown. His favorability ratings plummeted and he faced a near rebellion from GOP senators, who bluntly told Vice President Mike Pence a day before Trump yielded that it was time to end the standoff.

Trump was further hurt by endless stories about the tribulations of the 800,000 federal workers going without pay and countless others missing needed government services, plus comments by high-ranking administration officials that made those officials seem unfeeling about the suffering. Things spiraled dangerously Friday amid a snowballing shortage of air traffic controllers that snarled airports in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, raising questions about safety.

All that for an agreement that contains no guarantee Pelosi and her fellow Democrats will provide a dime for Trump's wall, which Pelosi has called "immoral" and has said Congress will not finance.

Trump remains hopeful, tweeting Saturday that "only fools, or people with a political agenda" do not want a wall or steel barrier. "It will happen."

History shows that over the past quarter-century, voters generally don't punish candidates for shutdowns. This one occurred nearly two full years before the 2020 elections, leaving time for other events and issues to dominate when Trump runs for re-election and House and Senate control are at stake.

Even so, after the perfor-



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., signs a deal to reopen the government on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019. Associated Press.

mances by Pelosi and Trump, it was Republicans who seemed more concerned about the potential reverberations.

Asked if the shutdown was

worth it, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., said, "I don't think they're ever a good idea. The answer to your question probably has to be, 'We'll see what happens.'" □

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End of shutdown still leaves contract workers hanging

By JAY REEVES, Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)

— Federal employees are turning on office lights and computers and re-opening national parks and museums for the first time in weeks, but others employed by government contractors face still more uncertainty over when they'll resume work or whether they'll ever be paid for time lost to the stalemate over President Donald Trump's border wall. For the hundreds of thousands of people who work for private companies that support government, the future will be decided in part by how quickly federal agencies get running after the record 35-day shutdown, the fine print of contracts and the kindness of strangers.

Michelle Oler of St. Louis resorted to online fundraising to pay bills while sidelined from her contracting job processing rural development claims for the Agriculture Department, and she's still unsure when she'll resume work or receive



Park ranger Rhonda Schier, left, welcomes Stanley Gross, 5, his sister Clara Gross, 1, mom Sherri Gross and dad Jared Gross to the Gateway Arch on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, in St. Louis, Mo.

Associated Press

money to compensate for missed paychecks.

"The estimate of what I've lost financially due to the shutdown is upwards of \$3,500. The anxiety, sleeplessness and depression make it feel like much more," Oler said Sunday

in an interview by email. Her GoFundMe page has brought in only \$50 so far.

Kevin Doyle, a father of three, estimated he's out around \$5,000 from his contracting job as an encryption specialist at Laughlin Air Force Base on the Texas-Mexico border. He said he didn't sleep and lost weight during the shutdown as both the stress and the bills piled up.

Doyle said he will return to work on Monday, but he starts a new job Friday with another company that he hopes will be more stable if talks fail over Trump's demand for money for a wall and another shutdown begins next month.

"We were scraping pennies and nickels together one day to get the baby a Happy Meal," said Doyle, 40. "It's just that bad."

The partial government shutdown ended when Trump backed off his demand that Congress com-

mit \$5.7 billion for a U.S.-Mexico border wall before federal agencies could resume work. All or parts of multiple federal agencies were affected, with some employees furloughed and others forced to work without pay.

The 800,000 federal workers who were affected will receive back pay, but contractors don't have the same guarantee.

Jack Lyons, who was furloughed from his contract job providing technical support at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in north Alabama, didn't miss a paycheck during the shutdown. "I was one of the lucky ones," he said.

But Lyons still wonders what will happen when he returns to work Monday in a building near towering stands built to test rockets at the NASA center.

"I'll walk in, wipe the dust off the desk and see how management decides to catch

up on what we missed," he said Sunday. "Passwords expire and that sort of stuff, so it will just be a matter of making sure you can get in at first."

NASA told workers in a message on its website to be patient with laptops, desktop computers and smartphones that haven't been maintained or updated since last month when the shutdown began.

Doyle said it could take his family a long time to dig out from under the shutdown's effect. The mortgage and power bills are both two months behind, Doyle said, and he doesn't expect another paycheck before Feb. 28.

Doyle's wife can't work because of a back injury, he said, and the family wasn't eligible for food assistance because of past wages. A food bank was out of items by the time they got there, he said.

"A worker there gave us a \$50 Walmart gift card out of the kindness of her heart," he said.

In Missouri, Oler is thankful she moved in with two roommates in early December before the shutdown began. The change dropped her expenses drastically from the \$800 a month she was paying for rent, utilities, internet, phone, car insurance and food for her and her cat.

Even with smaller bills, though, Oler said she is still looking for a new job because she can't take the stress of working with the government anymore.

"While I love being a contractor, I hate the uncertainty that's come with it. This happened to us last year on a smaller scale, but this year's shutdown has me concerned for my future and welfare," she said. □

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High-schoolers get face time with extremists in class

By JULIE CARR SMYTH,
WORTHINGTON, Ohio (AP)

— Last week's videotaped encounter at the Lincoln Memorial left many wondering about the state of reasoned political discourse in the country, or if it exists at all in a hyper-partisan era of red "Make America Great Again" hats versus pink women's march caps.

In a video from Jan. 18, a group of boys from Kentucky's Covington Catholic High School, a Native American activist and a cluster of Black Hebrew Israelites faced off in an uncomfortable confrontation that spread online and in the media. It has prompted national debate about both civility in politics, the seeming lack of tolerance for those of differing political beliefs and how both are influencing the nation's youth.

That debate sounded all-too-familiar to Ohio social studies teacher Judy Galasso, who has taught a class on political radicalism for three decades now.

"If someone's yelling things at you, if you're presented with groups that you disagree with, my hope is that we train our kids well enough that they're not going to react," Galasso said. Galasso and co-teacher Jonathan Duffy invite members of America's most extreme political groups—including the National Socialist Movement, the Weather Underground and the Revolutionary Communists—into their classroom each semester. They teach students to engage respectfully with those of differing beliefs and to ask questions.

The Covington Catholic incident has seemed to further divide the nation. Parents, alumni and others have rallied to the white teenagers' defense and, in a tweet, President Donald Trump called the students "symbols of Fake News and how evil it can be." Others largely supported the Native American activist, de-

scribing him as a victim of racism and white entitlement.

In Galasso and Duffy's class, no one shies away from such political discomfort.

"In 2019, our teachers generally are like, 'You know what? Let's redirect to a different topic, because that one sounds like it's loaded with land mines,'" said Pete Skully, principal of Thomas Worthington High School, where Galasso teaches. "The idea of poli-rad is, you know what, let's explore all those land mines and talk about them."

U.S. Political Thought and Radicalism, "poli-rad" for short, has been steadily offered as a social studies credit by the suburban Columbus district since the 1970s. Over the decades, its unconventional speaker series has generated excitement, sparked protests and left classrooms at turns emboldened, shaken or inspired.

"In 2019, no school board in America would approve a class like this, but in Worthington, there's no way you could get rid of it," Galasso said.

Speakers over the years have included former revolutionary Bill Ayers of the Weather Underground, Harry Hughes of the National Socialist Movement, Ramona Africa from the black liberation group MOVE, white supremacist Richard Spencer and Turner Diaries author William Pierce.

About half the district's seniors take the class each year. That's created a legion of alumni ready to defend it when a new crop of parents in the affluent, largely white district raise concerns about the potential dangers of the class.

Jen Miller, 26, a Nashville-based music producer and 2010 Thomas Worthington graduate, said poli-rad was one of the most valuable classes she took in high school.

"It opened meaningful dialogue and that, to me, is priceless," she said. "Sure, it might make some parents

uncomfortable, but the class isn't radicalizing students; it's teaching students about radicalization, which is pretty important. I mean, look at the context that we're living in today."

Worthington School Board member Julie Keegan said she wishes more districts would offer such a course. She took poli-rad in 1984. Her husband and all four of her children are also alums. "In 1984, Worthington was much more homogenous than it is right now," Keegan said. "So part of that class was just sort of pointing out, 'Hey, guess what? Not everybody thinks like you, looks like you, talks like you.'" Retired teacher Tom Molnar said he created the course in 1975 with input from students. He had been given the course topic, but no guidance. When students said they wanted to learn about radical groups operating in America at the time, he had to tell them there was no source material to work from. One student suggested inviting the groups in.

"I told him it was completely nuts, but they encouraged me to take that message to the principal, and the principal said, 'It's brilliant,'" he said.

Poli-rad students study each

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speaker ahead of time, gathering background and preparing questions. Afterward, teachers help them think critically about how factors such as deceptive language or personal charisma were used.

The teachers attribute the course's success to a few key ground rules: Presenters must come from across the political spectrum, they can't be censored, students must remain respectful and instructors can't share their personal political beliefs.

Another key takeaway: Don't rush to judgment.

"One thing we teach kids when speakers come in is to truly listen to what they're saying," Duffy said, "and just because they think they know what this individual believes, you still have to listen and accurately reflect."

In the early 1990s, Ku Klux Klan members arrived to the classroom in full robes and hoods. Their silhouettes could be seen from the main road in front of the high school, spreading community alarm. To ease concerns, teachers agreed to a compromise: They would cease inviting active Klansmen as long as the district placed no further restrictions on their speakers. Senior Tori Banks, 18, who took the course last semester, said it helped her expand her views and learn tolerance.

"If I weren't in the class and I saw some of these speakers or people of certain stances walking around, I may feel uncomfortable," she said. "But I think the way we do it in poli-rad is a very safe environment." □



In this Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, photo students listen as social studies teachers Judi Galasso and Jonathan Duffy lead the introductory class of their American Thought and Political Radicalism course at Thomas Worthington High School, in Worthington, Ohio.

Associated Press

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French president in Egypt to boost ties, raise human rights

By BRIAN ROHAN
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron aims to speak out stronger than in the past about human rights issues while in Egypt, where France seeks to reinforce strategic ties with a country he considers a key regional partner, he told reporters on Sunday. Heading a large delegation on a three-day trip to the Arab world's most populous country, Macron said he wants to "pursue a truthful dialogue on topics of public freedoms and human rights," an area he feels Egypt has not progressed enough on since he raised it with officials earlier in his mandate. France, which considers itself the birthplace of human rights, has come

under pressure by advocates to raise the issue with general-turned-President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, whose human rights record has been widely condemned and is seen as worsening. Macron said that too many people who present no threat to the country were being jailed. "It is on this area of what is happening in Egypt that I will continue to focus things. I will do it more openly during this trip," he said, adding that he considered it in the interest of el-Sissi and Egypt to respect human rights. Macron said he felt the current crackdown on opposition in Egypt, begun after el-Sissi overthrew his elected but divisive Islamist predecessor in 2013, had become worse than under the country's longtime au-



In this Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, file photo, France's President Emmanuel Macron speaks to military forces as part of his visit to the 11th Brigade of the Paratroopers of the Infantry at Toulouse-Franczal air base, near Toulouse, southern France.

Associated Press

tocrat Hosni Mubarak, who was overthrown in the 2011 Arab Spring uprising. "I think what is happening here sooner or later threatens the stability of Egypt.

That's to say, I think that the policies as they are being done are perceived by intellectuals, the Egyptian civil society, as being even stronger than (under) the

Mubarak regime," he said. Macron said he would raise specific names to el-Sissi in a confidential discussion. Aside from heightened public emphasis on human rights, he did not mention raising any new specific levers to try and incentivize el-Sissi. Rights groups and activists have urged France and other Western powers to halt weapons sales to Egypt, a major purchaser, until it shows improvement on the way it treats its own citizenry. But Macron dismissed using such pressure, saying it was important to respect Egypt's sovereignty and not cut it off because that could drive it further into the arms of the West's authoritarian rivals, Russia and China, which el-Sissi has courted. □

Another week, more UK jockeying over who controls Brexit

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May faces another bruising week in Parliament as lawmakers plan to challenge her minority Conservative government for control of Brexit policy. Amendments designed to change the course of Britain's planned March 29 departure from the European Union escalated the political jockeying. Several would delay the exit or make a Brexit without a divorce deal with the EU impossible. The final lineup to be considered in the House of Commons is not expected to be announced until Tuesday, hours before the



Demonstrators knock down a 'mock' wall on the Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland border, near Newry in Northern Ireland, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

next Brexit debate and voting begins. Scottish National Party leader Nicola Sturgeon said her party would sup-

port postponing Brexit day. Sturgeon said the possibility of a second U.K. referendum on leaving the EU was not gaining traction in Par-

liament because of opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn's ambiguous position. Voters supported Britain's withdrawal from the EU during a June 2016 referendum. Brexit opponents and others who have qualms about the process now underway have suggested holding another vote. "It's incumbent on Labour to make its position on this clear," she said. "If it does, so then I do think there would possibly be a majority in the House of Commons." May's Brexit divorce plan was soundly rejected by lawmakers two weeks ago. She is scrambling to gain more backing for the plan agreed with the EU, but some legislators are deter-

mined to force the government to slow the process and take "no-deal" off the table. The drama in Parliament has galvanized the partisan British press. The Sunday Times used its lead editorial to say it opposed a "no-deal" departure that would do unneeded harm to Britain, but also opposed the amendments that would block the "no-deal" route. It argued the threat of Brexit taking place without agreement on issues that affect people and businesses throughout Europe was Britain's only bargaining chip in getting the EU to soften the withdrawal terms and make May's deal acceptable to lawmakers. □

Pakistan says normalcy returns to former Taliban stronghold

By **MUNIR AHMED**

Associated Press

MIRAN SHAH, Pakistan (AP)

— Pakistan's military said Sunday that 95 percent of the tribal people in North Waziristan displaced by military operations against militants had returned to their homes in the region bordering Afghanistan, which once served as Taliban headquarters.

zirstan. He said thousands of security forces and civilians were killed in the fighting.

As Ghafoor spoke, some youths nearby shouted, "Long live Pakistan, and Long Live the Pakistan army."

"Normalcy is back, smiles are back on the faces people but it was not without a cost," Ghafoor said.

zirstan," resident Bakhat Zaman told Ghafoor.

To Zaman's surprise, Ghafoor said cell phone service will be available in March. "We will do whatever is possible to make your life easier," he said.

Ghafoor said the Pakistani Taliban used religion to spread violence and that now a young Pashtun leader, Manzoor Pashteen, was

"misguiding and inciting youths against the army."

Ghafoor said the military is fencing the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan to ensure peace on both sides and that he hoped that Kabul will not allow Afghan soil to be used as a staging ground for attacks against Pakistan.

Afghanistan does not recognize the boundary,

known as the Durand Line, which was drawn by British rulers in 1896. Ghafoor took the journalists to the main Ghulam Khan border where fencing has been completed. He said the military in 2017 planned to fence 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) of the border and about 800 kilometers (500 miles) has already been completed. □



Pakistani local tribesmen takes selfies with visiting Pakistan's army Maj. Gen. Ghafoor, center in uniform, in the Pakistani tribal area of Miran Shah along the Afghanistan border, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor made the claim in the town of Miran Shah, where the military took journalists on a tour, giving them access to residents who demanded better health and education facilities.

Ghafoor was hugged by youths and tribal elders in a sign of respect as he visited the town's main bazaar with reporters.

North Waziristan was a "no-go area" for ordinary Pakistanis and even military personnel because of the strong presence of militants before 2013, when the military launched operations there, clearing out militants but also displacing about 1 million people.

Ghafoor said the Pakistani Taliban now operate in neighboring Afghanistan after the military evicted or killed them in North Wa-

Residents say they are happy about the return of peace.

"Taliban are gone and we pray that they don't come back," said Tahseen Ullah, a local resident who sells cooked rice in the Miran Shah bazaar.

Another shop owner, Khadim Hussain, complained that residents still face lengthy power outages during the day and at night. "We demand that mobile phone service be provided to North Wa-



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Auschwitz survivors pay homage as world remembers Holocaust



Polish far-right activists enter the former German Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Oswiecim, Poland, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

By **VANESSA GERA**
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The world marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday amid a revival of hate-inspired violence and signs that younger generations

know less and less about the genocide of Jews, Roma and others by Nazi Germany during World War II.

As survivors of Auschwitz marked the 74th anniversary of the notorious death camp's liberation, a far-

right activist who served time in prison for burning an effigy of a Jew placed a wreath there with about 50 other Polish nationalists to protest the official observances.

Piotr Rybak said the group opposes the annual ceremony at Auschwitz to mark the camp's liberation by the Soviet army, the event that gave rise to the international Jan. 27 remembrance. Rybak claimed it glorifies the 1 million Jewish victims killed at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death complex and discounts the 70,000 Poles killed there.

"It's time to fight against Jewry and free Poland from them!" Rybak said as he marched to the site, according to a report by Polish daily newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza on its website. Rybak's claim is incorrect. The ceremony at the state-run memorial site paid homage Sunday, as it does every year, to all of the camp's victims, both Jews and gentiles, while Christian and Jewish religious leaders recited a prayer in unison together. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki also stressed that the Third Reich targeted Poles as well as Jews. Since last year's observances, an 85-year-old French Holocaust survivor, Mireille Knoll, was fatally stabbed in Paris and 11 Jews were gunned down in a Pittsburgh synagogue during Shabbat services, the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history.

Human Rights First, a U.S. organization, recalled those killings and warned that "today's threats do not come solely from the fringe."

"In places such as Hungary and Poland, once proudly democratic nations, government leaders are traveling the road to authoritari-

anism," said Ira Forman, the group's senior adviser for combating anti-Semitism. "As they do so, they are distorting history to spin a fable about their nations and the Holocaust."

Former Auschwitz prisoners placed flowers early Sunday at an execution wall at Auschwitz, paying homage before the arrival of the nationalists at the same spot. They wore striped scarves that recalled their uniforms, some with the red letter "P," the symbol the Germans used to mark them as Poles. Early in World War II, most prisoners were Poles, rounded up by the occupying German forces. Later, Auschwitz was transformed into a mass killing site for Jews, Roma and others, operating until the liberation by Soviet forces on Jan. 27, 1945.

In Germany, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas warned in an op-ed in the weekly Welt am Sonntag that across Europe populists are propagating nationalism and "far-right provocateurs are trying to downplay the Holocaust."

"We shall never forget. We shall never be indifferent. We must stand up for our liberal democracy," Maas wrote.

Over the past year, Germany has seen a rising number of often violent attacks against Jews carried out by neo-Nazis and Muslims, prompting the government to appoint a commissioner against anti-Semitism and to start funding a national registration office for anti-Semitic hate crimes.

The appearance by nationalists at Auschwitz comes amid a surge of right-wing extremism in Poland and elsewhere in the West. It is fed by a broader grievance many Poles have that their suffering during

the war at German hands is little known abroad while there is greater knowledge of the Jewish tragedy.

However recent surveys show that knowledge of the atrocities during World War II is declining generally. A new study released in recent days by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the Azrieli Foundation found that 52 percent of millennials in Canada cannot name even one concentration camp or ghetto and 62 percent of millennials did not know that 6 million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

Its findings were similar to a similar study carried out a year before in the United States.

In Britain, a new poll by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust found that one in 20 adults in Britain do not believe the Holocaust took place.

The poll of more than 2,000 people released Sunday also found that nearly two-thirds of those polled either did not know how many Jews had been murdered or greatly underestimated the number killed during the Holocaust.

"Such widespread ignorance and even denial is shocking," chief executive Olivia Marks-Woldman said. Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs said in its Global Antisemitism Report released Sunday that 13 Jews were murdered in fatal attacks in 2018, marking the highest number of Jews murdered since a wave of attacks on Argentinian Jews in the 1990s.

The report found that around 70 percent of anti-Jewish attacks were anti-Israel in nature and that most of the attacks were led by neo-Nazis and white supremacists. □

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20 dead as bombs target Sunday Mass in Philippine cathedral

Associated Press

JOLO, Philippines (AP) — Two bombs minutes apart tore through a Roman Catholic cathedral on a southern Philippine island where Muslim militants are active, killing at least 20 people and wounding 111 others during a Sunday Mass, officials said.

Witnesses said the first blast inside the Jolo cathedral in the provincial capital sent churchgoers, some of them wounded, to stampede out of the main door. Army troops and police posted outside were rushing in when the second bomb went off about one minute later near the main entrance, causing more deaths and injuries. The military was checking a report that the second explosive device may have been attached to a parked motorcycle.

The initial explosion scattered the wooden pews inside the main hall and blasted window glass panels, and the second bomb hurled human remains and debris across a town square fronting the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, witnesses said. Cellphone signal was cut off in the first hours after the attack. The witnesses who spoke to The Associated Press refused to give their names or were busy at the scene of the blasts.

Police said at least 20 people died and 111 were wounded, correcting an earlier toll due to double counting. The fatalities included 15 civilians and five troops. Among the wounded were 17 troops, two police, two coast guard and 90 civilians.

Troops in armored carriers sealed off the main road leading to the church while vehicles transported the dead and wounded to the



In this photo provided by WESMINCOM Armed Forces of the Philippines, a soldier views the site inside a Roman Catholic cathedral in Jolo, the capital of Sulu province in the southern Philippines after two bombs exploded Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

town hospital. Some casualties were evacuated by air to nearby Zamboanga city.

"I have directed our troops to heighten their alert level, secure all places of worship and public places at once, and initiate proactive security measures to thwart hostile plans," said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in a statement. "We will pursue to the ends of the earth the ruthless perpetrators behind this dastardly crime until every killer is brought to justice and put behind bars. The law will give them no mercy," the office of President Rodrigo Duterte said in Manila.

It said that "the enemies of the state boldly challenged the government's capability to secure the safety of citizens in that region. The (Armed Forces of the Philippines) will rise to the challenge and crush these godless criminals."

Jolo island has long been troubled by the presence

of Abu Sayyaf militants, who are blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a terrorist organization because of years of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings. A Catholic bishop, Benjamin de Jesus, was gunned down by suspected militants outside the cathedral in 1997.

No one has immediately claimed responsibility for the latest attack.

It came nearly a week after minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation endorsed a new autonomous region in the southern Philippines in hopes of ending nearly five decades of a separatist rebellion that has left 150,000 people dead. Although most of the Muslim areas approved the autonomy deal, voters in Sulu province, where Jolo is located, rejected it. The province is home to a rival rebel faction that's opposed to the deal as well as smaller militant cells that not part of

any peace process.

Western governments have welcomed the autonomy pact. They worry that small numbers of Islamic State-linked militants from the Middle East and Southeast Asia could forge an alliance with Filipino insurgents and turn the south into a breeding ground for extremists.

"This bomb attack was done in a place of peace and worship, and it comes at a time when we are preparing for another stage of the peace process in Mindanao," said Gov. Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. "Human lives are irreplaceable," he added, calling on Jolo residents to cooperate with authorities to find the perpetrators of this "atrocious."

Security officials were looking "at different threat groups and they still can't say if this has something to do with the just concluded plebiscite," Oscar Albayalde, the national police chief, told ABS-CBN TV network. Hermogenes Esperon, the national security adviser, said that the new autonomous region, called Bangsamoro, "signifies the end of war for secession. It stands for peace in Mindanao." Aside from the small but brutal Abu Sayyaf group, other militant groups in Sulu include a small band of young jihadis aligned with the Islamic State group, which has also carried out assaults, including ransom kidnappings and beheadings. □

Associated Press

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Search for Brazil dam survivors renews amid growing despair

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOU-SA

PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

BRUMADINHO, Brazil (AP)

— Brazilian officials on Sunday resumed the search for hundreds of missing people in the wake of a massive dam collapse, with firefighter crews returning to mud-covered areas after a several-hour suspension over fears that a second dam was at risk of breach. Authorities evacuated several neighborhoods in the southeastern city of Brumadinho that were within range of the B6 dam owned by the Brazilian mining company Vale. An estimated 24,000 people were told to get to higher ground, but by the afternoon, civil engineers said the second dam was no longer at risk.

Areas of water-soaked mud appeared to be drying out, which could help firefighters get to areas previously unreachable.

"Get out searching!" a woman yelled at firefighters near a refuge set up in the center of Brumadinho. "They could be out there in the bush."

On Sunday, authorities lowered the confirmed death toll to 37 from 40, giving no explanation, though that number was expected to increase as rescue and recovery teams got to the hardest hit areas.

Even before the half-day suspension of rescue efforts, hope that loved ones had survived a tsunami of iron ore mine waste from Friday's dam collapse in the area was turning to an-

Rescue work try to reach a cow that is stuck in a field of mud, two days after a dam collapse in Brumadinho, Brazil, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

guish and anger over the increasing likelihood that many of the hundreds of people missing had died.

There was also mounting anger at Vale and questions about an apparent lack of an alarm system on Friday.

Caroline Steinfeld, who was evacuated, said she heard warning sirens on Sunday, but no such alert came on Friday, when the first dam collapsed.

"I only heard shouting, people saying to get out. I had to run with my family to get to higher ground, but there was no siren," she said, adding that a cousin was still unaccounted for.

Several others made similar complaints when interviewed by The Associated Press. An email to Vale asking for comment was not

immediately answered.

"I'm angry. There is no way I can stay calm," said Sonia Fatima da Silva, as she tried to get information about her son, who had worked at Vale for 20 years. "My hope is that they be honest. I want news, even if it's bad."

Da Silva said she last spoke to her son before he went to work on Friday, when around midday a dam holding back mine waste collapsed, sending waves of mud for kilometers (miles) and burying much in its path.

She was one of scores of relatives in Brumadinho who desperately awaited word on their loved ones. Romeu Zema, the governor of Minas Gerais state, said by now most recovery efforts will entail pulling out

bodies.

The flow of waste reached the nearby community of Vila Ferteco and an occupied Vale administrative office. It buried buildings to their rooftops and an extensive field of the mud cut off roads.

Some residents barely escaped with their lives.

"I saw all the mud coming down the hill, snapping the trees as it descended. It was a tremendous noise," said a tearful Simone Pedrosa, from the neighborhood of Parque Cachoeira, 5 miles (8 kilometers) from where the dam collapsed.

Pedrosa, 45, and her parents dashed to their car and drove to the highest point in the neighborhood. "If we had gone down the other direction, we would have died," Pedrosa said.

"I cannot get that noise out of my head," she said. "It's a trauma ... I'll never forget."

In addition to the dead, 23 people were hospitalized, according to the Minas Gerais fire department. There had been some signs of hope earlier Saturday when authorities found 43 more people alive. For many, hope was evaporating. "I don't think he is alive," said Joao Bosco, speaking of his cousin, Jorge Luis Ferreira, who worked for Vale. "Right now, I can only hope for a miracle."

Vanilza Sueli Oliveira described the wait for news of her nephew as "distressing, maddening."

"Time is passing," she said. "It's been 24 hours already. ... I just don't want to think that he is under the mud."

The rivers of mining waste also raised fears of widespread environmental contamination and degradation. According to Vale's website, the waste is composed mostly of sand and is non-toxic. However, a U.N. report found that the waste from a similar disaster in 2015 "contained high levels of toxic heavy metals."

Over the weekend, state courts and the justice ministry in the state of Minas Gerais froze about \$1.5 billion from Vale assets for state emergency services and told the company to report on how they would help the victims.

Neither the company nor authorities had reported why the dam failed, but Attorney General Raquel Dodge promised to investigate it, saying "someone is definitely at fault." □

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Fundraising in the Aruban Tourism sector

ORANJESTAD — **Stichting Centro pa Desaroyo di Aruba (CEDE Aruba) and Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA) recently signed a cooperation agreement for the 'Happy Community Initiative', a collective effort between CEDE Aruba, ATSA and the member organizations to raise funds in the tourism sector.**

In 2017, CEDE Aruba gave a presentation to ATSA, highlighting social issues in the Aruban community as well as innovation in the world of fundraising. After a positive survey within the timeshare owner community, the parties developed the strategy to invite vacation owners and island visitors to support local community initiatives, making it possible to donate and, in a further state of the proj-

ect, also to volunteer. The donations of the visitors will be managed by CEDE Aruba and provided to projects that make an impact on the development of children and youngsters in Aruba, especially after school programs, vacation activities and projects dedicated to youth at risk.

Tourism & Social Sector

The signing of the agreement took place at the office of CEDE Aruba. "We are excited about the partnership with CEDE Aruba to provide more support for our youth & families and make a much bigger impact on the future of our community," says Mr. Luigi Heredia, President of ATSA. The board of CEDE Aruba acknowledges this agreement as a milestone; the social sector and the tour-

ism sector are growing closer together in order to foster social and sustainable development.

About ATSA

The Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA) is the legal entity representing the special interests of timeshare within the island's tourism sector. ATSA was established in 1994, and currently counts the active membership of the majority of timeshare properties in Aruba (as well as condominium co-op associations). The Association works on a local level, as a supporting member of AHATA, the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, and with other local organizations as well as Government entities. On a regional level, where Aruba continues to receive recognition as a model timeshare

destination, ATSA has professional ties with CHA, the Caribbean Hotel Association and also benefits from continuous collaboration with ARDA, the American Resort Development Association. Visit us online at <http://www.arubatsa.com/>

About CEDE Aruba

CEDE Aruba is a development and grant making organization, bringing together people and resources for sustainable development. In the fight against the socioeconomic and social problems in Aruba, we bring the target groups into contact with each other and act as a catalyst, whenever there is an opportunity for social and educational development. CEDE Aruba provides funds to non-governmental organizations, matches organi-

zations with (international) funding opportunities, supports local organizations in the development of projects and initiates developments within different sectors of society. CEDE Aruba contributes to a community where people of all ages and backgrounds can develop themselves. We believe that sustainable development in the Aruban community is feasible. Visit us online at <http://cedearuba.org/>

For more information concerning the Happy Community Initiative, please contact:

Ms. Kimberly Mathilda, Project Leader Happy Community Initiative Aruba, Phone: +297 582.7666 Email: info@happycommunityaruba.org □



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Wonderful Donkey Walk 2019

ORANJESTAD — A large group of avid walkers started the 14th annual Donkey Walk of the Donkey Sanctuary this past weekend. Although the majority participated walking, there were a few runners among the

registrations as well. Each participant received a donkey bag and a bottle of cold water at the start and along the way there were water stations for refills.

The route started at the

Donkey Sanctuary at Bringamosa and took the walkers via the Frenchmen's Pass, Jan Fleming and Botton back to Bringamosa. The 5-K distance was traversed together with donkeys Diva, Igor and Simba.

At the finish volunteers were standing ready with lovely fresh fruit, courtesy of SuperFood. It was a wonderful activity, filled with fun and happiness.

Mito Werleman, who participated for the 14th time this year, came in first with

a time of 26.5 minutes. Yes, he ran them all! In second place Ivan Yarzagaray and in third place were Lemar, Patrick and Luis. And then there were also a lot of walkers, with small kids, and even an 88-year-old participant. Kudos! □

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Mr. Herbert and Mrs. Zelda Baron honored at the Divi Village and Golf

EAGLE BEACH — Recently Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to present Mr. Herbert and Mrs. Zelda Baron with the Goodwill Ambassador Certificate. The ceremony was held at the Divi Village and Golf in the presence of Ms. Gloria Defoe from Guest Relations Services. Herbert and Zelda love Aruba especially for the "Aruban People". They come from Massachusetts and have been calling Aruba their home away from home for many years. The honorary title is presented by the Aruba Tourism Authority to loyal Aruba visitors who have been coming to the island for over 20 consecutive years.

Group of loyal visitors honored at the Divi Aruba

EAGLE BEACH — Recently a group of loyal visitors were honored at the Divi Aruba. The honorary titles were presented by the Aruba Tourism Authority to loyal visitors for 10 and 20 consecutive years' visits to the island. The ceremony was conducted by Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Francis Ridderstap from the guest relations department. The honorees are Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Colette Phillips from Washington as Distinguished Visitors (10+ consecutive years) together with Mr. Norman, Mrs. Susan, Mr. Justin, Ms. Melissa and Ms. Elizabeth Aubert as Goodwill Ambassador (20+ consecutive years). These Aruba friends love the island especially for the friendly people, food and relaxation. □





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Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

High Season Madness

In a few of my articles I've touched on high season and all that it encompasses, it's usually a time hotels are constantly at 95-100% in occupancy. Of course it coincides with winter and the phenomenon known as snow birds, which are people who vacation during the winter to escape the cold. Considering the temperatures I've been hearing about (thanks to the guests who have been kind enough to use Celsius), I don't blame them for wanting to escape.

However just like hurricane season, winter comes with its own perils that we in the hotel business have to look out for and last weekend was no exception. Over the last few years, even as a timeshare we have insisted on our members confirming they would be using their timeshare in an attempt to forecast our occupancy and if we haven't heard anything, then we tend to reach out to those we haven't heard from to confirm if they're coming or not. The practice of reaching out has really paid off over the last few weeks as our rentals department was running at capacity with more people wanting to escape the cold.



The knowledge of who would be coming in on Saturday and who would be arriving later in the week and who was already in house, really paid off last weekend as winter storm Harper hit the US. We had been aware of the storm and were keeping an eye on it, but since we hadn't heard much from guests and had a 95% confirmation we weren't too worried about the storm. I consider this a counting the eggs before the hatch moment. As we ran through our day on Friday everything was smooth, by end of business nobody had heard anything and we figured we were home safe with an easy Saturday.

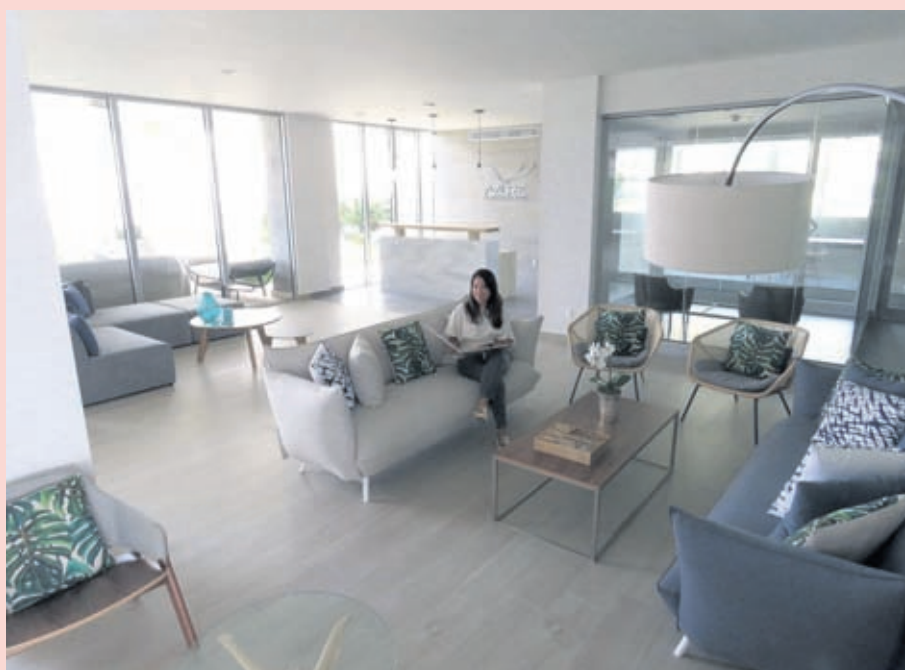
Luckily I'd decided to go into work earlier than normal that Saturday, because as soon as I pulled into the parking lot, my phone started to blow up with incoming emails. At first I thought there was an emergency at the resort itself, but then when I started to look and see on both ends people stating their flights inbound and outbound had been cancelled it was time to get to work. In these situations you get a little thrill knowing the day is going to pass you by because you'll be busy from the word go and I was not disappointed. By the time I got to my office the front desk already had a list of those who needed to stay extra nights and we got to work trying to accommodate everyone.

It's one of those high pressure situations where hotel staff have to basically have the confidence of stewardesses. If the plane is shaking and their calm and still serving then you'll be okay. In that same manner we have to project calmness and assure guests that they will be taken care of and have a place until they need it. It's one of those great collaborative moments where our guests trust us by remaining calm and we make sure that even this unexpected addition to their vacation runs smoothly. By the time we left Saturday all our rooms were filled and back up plans had been laid for anyone needing additional nights beyond the weekend. It was an exhausting, but rewarding experience, which just added to the madness that comes with high season. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

Condominiums with a Plus



EAGLE BEACH — Imagine: a white-sanded beach, blue-turquoise ocean, inviting pool with lazy sun beds and an amazing residence where you feel home, no actually: it IS your home. A dream come true as you are the owner of a condominium at Azure Beach Residences, right on the foot of Aruba's Eagle Beach, a multiple rewarded beach being the best in the Caribbean. Aruba Today talked to one of the enthusiastic sales representatives of this piece of heaven, Marinelda Cataya.

All condominiums face the clear blue ocean with the white-sandy beaches, even the ones on the ground floor. Tower I is completed and space wise you cannot go wrong: the 2-bedroom condominiums are 1024 sq. ft. and the 3-bedroom units 1670 sq. ft. Storage is included so just leave your chairs and bicycles locked up, even when you rent out your units, rooms are offered in lock offs meaning your personal belongings stay safe in one locked bedroom while the rest of the place can be rented out. Tower II is in construction and will have studios and 1-bedroom units. "And we have our separate building The Club House ready. We are very proud to show it."

We Can Show the Product

The big plus about this project is that you can actually see the result already, you do not buy from a drawing, and at Azure they can show you the end result for real. The construction of Tower II is running according to schedule, the condominiums are divided and planned to be ready in 2020. This tower has studios and 1-bedroom apartments, Tower I has only 2- and 3- bedroom units", Marinelda explains. Either for investment or pleasure, this is a great opportunity. "The interior of Tower II will differ as we will use more colors and natural elements like wood. Tower I is mainly in white styling. Quality is high, we are going for the newest technology with regards to windows for example. A soft opening is scheduled for the realtors and media to show the product."

Cozy Club House

Guests are already using the facilities of the residence and remodeling their homes. "The

Club House is finished now and I can tell you honestly that the amenities we have here are unique. They are different from the other condominiums because we have a separate building where we offer a nice lobby, a restaurant bar, the owners club with a pool table, and where you can play chess or any kind of game and an outside area with BBQ/grills so you can bring your family and friends along", says Marinelda. "It creates that family, intimate, homey feeling. By the way we share amenities with Blue Residences where they have a playground for kids as well as a beach tennis field." The Club House restaurant is a kind of open lobby bar with breakfast, lunch and dinner available. The fitness has an amazing view likewise the members club which offers laptop connections and WIFI of course. Other amenities are two infinity pools, a Jacuzzi area and a tennis court.

"Important to mention is that we are energy efficient as all units have double glass, we use a well for watering the garden and solar panels for lightning. We are most eco-friendly as possible." says Marinelda. In her opinion potential buyers want to feel trust and that is exactly what Azure offers as you see the finished result of Tower I where they almost sold all units. "So you can feel comfortable with the investment. Unique also is that you will find few condominiums right in front of the beach, so your sunset and ocean view are included. Your condo is delivered with luxury appliances, here you meet the comfort of a resort yet the privacy of your own place. Your home with the convenience of the resort." For more information you can visit the website [http:// www.azure-aruba.com](http://www.azure-aruba.com). The sales office is open every week day from 9 AM -5 PM, Saturdays 10 AM - 1 PM. □



Harbour House is another project of the Pering Group, located in downtown, offering 94 condominiums, just in front of Renaissance Mall. Studio's and 2-3 bedrooms, a 360 degrees view gym and Jacuzzi on top. Located in the former Marisol building. More information can be found at: www.harbourhousearuba.com

SPORTS



Pacific Division's Erik Karlsson, of the San Jose Sharks, celebrates after scoring a goal against the Central Division during the first half of a semifinal of the NHL hockey All-Star Game in San Jose, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

Lightning have 'unfinished business' after All-Star break

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — For Steven Stamkos and the Tampa Bay Lightning, just about everything has gone right so far this season. But as they get ready to return from the All-Star break as the NHL's top team, the Lightning knows there is little they can do before April to make this a successful campaign. Tampa Bay leads the league with 76 points so far this season, opening up a 13-point edge over the next best team in the Eastern Conference. But after losing in the Stanley Cup Final in 2015 and then in Game 7 of the conference finals in 2016 and '18, nothing short of winning it all will be enough for the Lightning. "There's still some unfinished business," Stamkos said at All-Star weekend. "We have a chip on our shoulder. I'm sure there are a lot of teams that would be happy to go to a Stanley Cup Final and three of the last four Eastern Conference Finals.

Continued on Next Page



Lucky Seven

Djokovic routs Nadal for record 7th Australian Open

Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Spain's Rafael Nadal in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

Continued from Previous Page
That's tough to do. But with the expectations being so high for our group, we came into this year thinking this was our year, our turn." The Lightning thought that also was the case a year ago when they took a 3-2 lead over Washington in the conference final. But they were outscored 7-0 in the next two games and it was the Capitals who ended up winning it all.

Nikita Kucherov, who leads the NHL with 78 points, says it's simple what needs to be different this time around.

"Just make sure we score goals in Game 6 and 7 and play well defensively," he said.

There is still much to be decided in the final 10 weeks of the season. There are competitive division races outside of Tampa Bay's runaway pace in the Atlantic, and 23 of the 31 teams are within five points of a play-off berth.

Even in a place like Edmonton where the Oilers have been in turmoil for much of the season — with coach Todd McLellan getting fired in November and general manager Peter Chiarelli losing his job just before the break — there is still hope for the stretch run.

Star Connor McDavid was grilled on media day about the problems, but he tried to put a positive light on it, pointing out that the team is just three points out of the playoffs despite so much going wrong.

"What I look forward to coming back from the break is trying our best to prove everyone wrong," he said. "We have an opportunity here, where things seem pretty down on us, there's a sense of negativity with the media, with everyone around the team, we get to prove people wrong. We get to decide how we're going to finish the second half. That's what I'm looking forward to."

The tightest races are in the Metropolitan Division, where the upstart Islanders are three points ahead of the defending champion Capitals and the Central Division where powerhouses Nashville and Winnipeg are tied with 64 points apiece. The Jets had won six of seven before dropping

the final game before the break, while the Predators broke out of a rough patch of four losses in five games by winning at Colorado and Vegas.

"Obviously the big thing for us is getting guys healthy and trying to get momentum going our way," Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne said. "We've been a little bit inconsistent the last little while. Before going on the break I felt that we were playing pretty strong hockey and I hope that we can continue that and keep building on that."

Calgary has built a little more of an edge in the Pacific with a five-point lead over San Jose, but both the Sharks and defending Western Conference champion Golden Knights are poised to push the Flames down the stretch.

The Sharks finished before the break with a thrilling, come-from-behind 7-6 overtime win at Washington and hope the preseason addition of star defenseman Erik Karlsson proves to be the final piece needed to lead the franchise to its first championship.

After a somewhat slow start, Karlsson has been playing at an elite level the past two months, showing why the Sharks coveted him so much. The next big question will be whether they can lock him up with a long-term deal before he can become a free agent this summer.

San Jose can offer Karlsson an eight-year contract — one year longer than anyone else — after the Feb. 25 trade deadline, but Karlsson said he is not worried about that just yet.

"I'm enjoying every moment," he said. "I'm not going to speak about the future. I've enjoyed every second. We've got a great team, and I'm excited for the last 30 games." □



Metropolitan Division's Mathew Barzal, left, of the New York Islanders, skates in front of Atlantic Division's Steven Stamkos, of the Tampa Bay Lightning, during the first half of an NHL hockey All-Star Game semifinal in San Jose, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

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Novak Djokovic vs. Rafael Nadal



Serbia's Novak Djokovic, right, shakes hands with Spain's Rafael Nadal on the podium after winning the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

**By HOWARD FENDRICH
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)**

— Novak Djokovic was so good, so relentless, so flawless, that Rafael Nadal never stood a chance.

Djokovic reduced one of the greats of the game to merely another outclassed opponent — just a guy, really — and one so out of sorts that Nadal even whiffed on one of his famous forehands entirely.

In a breathtakingly mistake-free performance that yielded a remarkably lopsided result, the No. 1-ranked Djokovic overwhelmed Nadal 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 on Sunday night to win a record seventh Australian Open championship and a third consecutive Grand Slam title, raising his count to 15 overall.

"Under the circumstances," Djokovic said, "it was truly a perfect match."

No one who saw it would disagree.

Djokovic's coach, Marian Vajda, said: "I would describe it as dominance."

Nadal's take? "An amazing level of tennis."

"Unbelievable," said Nadal's coach, Carlos Moya.

"Novak probably could have won, no matter who the opponent was."

That Djokovic would produce 34 winners and only nine unforced errors was impressive enough. That it came against Nadal — who is ranked No. 2, owns 17 major trophies himself and hadn't dropped a set in the tournament — was hard to comprehend.

Djokovic left Nadal smirking or gritting his teeth or punching his racket strings, unable to compete at all.

Here's how Nadal explained it: To have a chance when Djokovic plays that well, something extra is required. Given that he's coming off a series of injuries, given that he hadn't played since the U.S. Open last September, Nadal couldn't raise his game.

Then again, Nadal conceded, "When the player did almost everything better than you, you can't complain much."

So Djokovic added to previous triumphs in Melbourne in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016, along with four titles at Wimbledon, three at the U.S. Open and

one at the French Open.

He broke his tie with Roger Federer and Roy Emerson for most Australian Open men's titles. He also broke a tie with his idol, Pete Sampras, for third-most Grand Slam trophies; Djokovic now only trails Federer, with 20, and Nadal.

And he is gaining on them. Then there's this tidbit: Djokovic is the only man in tennis history to have a trio of three-straight-Slam streaks.

So let the talk begin about four majors in a row over two seasons, something Djokovic already managed to do from 2015-16. And, what's more, about a true Grand Slam, winning all four majors in one calendar year, which only has been done by two men, Donald Budge in 1938 and Rod Laver in 1962 and 1969. "I am aware that making history of the sport that I truly love is something special," the 31-year-old Serb said. "Of course, it motivates me."

He surprised even himself with the way he recovered after problems with his right elbow derailed him.

Djokovic sat out the last half of 2017. He tried to come back at the start of 2018 but was hampered by the elbow and lost in the fourth round in Melbourne. Soon after, he decided to have surgery.

All that is in the past.

He is once again at an elite level. If anything, the gap between him and the rest is growing right now.

A year ago, could he have envisioned being here now?

"Not impossible, but highly unlikely. I don't want to sound arrogant, but I always believe in myself," Djokovic said. "I think that's probably the biggest secret of my success."

Djokovic and Nadal know each other, their styles and their patterns all too well. This was their 53rd meeting — more than any other pair of men in the half-century professional era — and record-equaling 15th at a Grand Slam tournament. It was also their eighth matchup in a major final.

So there should not have been any mysteries out there on Rod Laver Arena's blue court as they be-

gan with the temperature, which had topped 105 degrees (40 Celsius) in recent days, at a manageable 75 (25 C) and just a hint of wind.

Right from the start, though, this shaped up nothing like their only previous Australian Open title match, back in 2012, which Djokovic won in 5 hours, 53 minutes, the longest Grand Slam final in history.

Evenly matched as they were that night, this time was no contest. None whatsoever. It lasted a tad more than 2 hours.

No ball, no matter how well-struck, was out of Djokovic's reach. He slid and stretched and occasionally even did the splits, contorting his body to get wherever and whenever he needed.

Djokovic grabbed 13 of the first 14 points, including all four that lasted 10 strokes or more. A trend was established.

Of most significance, Nadal was broken the very first time he served Sunday. That gave Djokovic one more break of Nadal than the zero that the Spaniard's five preceding opponents had managed.

Nadal could make no headway on this day. Djokovic won each of the initial 16 points he served and 25 of the first 26.

"One of the most important objectives for the match was to start off well and to bring in the right mindset and intensity," Djokovic said, "and make sure that he also feels my presence." By the end of the second set, Djokovic had won nearly twice as many points (59-30), made more winners (23-14) and far fewer unforced errors (20-4), while taking 14 of 17 points that lasted at least 10 strokes.

The longest was a 22-shot point, which ended when Nadal netted a backhand to give Djokovic a set point at the end of the first. Djokovic raised his right fist and held it there while staring at his guest box.

He was on the right path. Nadal could do nothing to stop him. □



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DeChambeau cruises to victory at Dubai Desert Classic

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Whether it's science or art, Bryson DeChambeau is making a name for himself for simply winning.

In his most dominant performance yet, DeChambeau turned a one-shot lead into a seven-stroke victory Sunday by closing with an 8-under 64 to set the tournament record and win the Dubai Desert Classic for his first European Tour victory and his fourth title in the last five months.

"Being able to win internationally is something that I've always wanted to do after winning so many times in the States," DeChambeau said. "And to get it at the Dubai Desert Classic is incredible. I couldn't be more honored to win this event."

The 25-year-old American wasn't entirely happy with his game, even while build-



Bryson DeChambeau of USA tees off on the 8th hole during round four of the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

ing a one-shot lead over Li Haotong going into the final day at Emirates Golf Club. He had few complaints Sunday, however, opening with three straight birdies to expand his lead to four shots. No one had a chance after that.

DeChambeau finished on 24-under 264, breaking by one shot the 72-hole record

Li had set the year before. Matt Wallace of England had a 68 to finish alone in second at 271. Ian Poulter and Paul Waring each had a 64 and tied for third, along with Sergio Garcia (66) and Alvaro Quiros (68). Li, trying to join Stephen Gallacher as the only back-to-back winners of this event since it began in

1989, stumbled early and was penalized late in his round of 73 to tie for 12th.

He made birdie on the last hole, but then received a two-shot penalty when officials determined Li's caddy was on a direct line behind the ball when he took his stance. That penalty is under the modernized Rules of Golf that took effect this year. Li could have avoided the penalty had he backed off the stroke and retaken his stance.

DeChambeau won consecutive FedEx Cup playoff events on the PGA Tour against strong fields in August, and he won again in Las Vegas on the U.S. tour. This gives him six worldwide victories in just under three full years as a pro. He will stay at No. 5 in the world.

"It is special," Garcia said of the American's form. "If you're playing well and making everything ... it's a perfect combination. He's

playing very, very nicely with a lot of confidence, and putting well. So you can't go wrong there."

DeChambeau first played Dubai as the U.S. Amateur champion in 2016, and he spoke then about the science he applies to golf and how it might revolutionize the game. The SMU graduate with a physics degree is known as the "Mad Scientist" in American circles, though DeChambeau says golf remains artful.

And his game remains a work in progress.

"The more variables that we figure out ... we can't figure everything out, but we've got a better understanding of how rough shots come out, of how bunker shots come out, of how putts break, how different angles on the greens relative to the hole — how that truly affects what the putt need to be for the proper terminal velocity," he said. □

Thousands rally, send Patriots off to 3rd Super Bowl in row

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)

— The New England Patriots have the Super Bowl send-off routine down pat. Break out the "Super Bowl Bound" banner. Queue up the highlight video. Take a few shots at those loser cities that don't have annual championship pep rallies. And round up the usual suspects: owner Robert Kraft, coach Bill Belichick, quarterback Tom Brady and the rest of the team captains. "We're not at the end yet," Brady told a sea of fans that covered the entire field at Gillette Stadium and filled most of one side of the lower seating bowl. "We've got one more to go."

The five-time Super Bowl champion then led the crowd in a chant of "We're still here!" before tossing the microphone aside to more cheers, and the Patriots headed off for buses that will start them on their way to Atlanta. They'll play the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday seeking their sixth NFL title since the 2001 season. A host wearing a sweatshirt reading "New England vs. Everyone" set the tone, taking shots at the previous playoff opponents, Kansas City and the Los Angeles Chargers. Looking out at the crowd, which the team estimated at 35,000, he said, "The Chargers consider this a sellout."

"This is the biggest send-off

we've ever had," Belichick said.

Brady jerseys were everywhere, and many fans held up signs that were distributed saying that the GOAT — Greatest Of All Time — is better than a Ram. Center David Andrews, who grew up near Atlanta, went to Georgia and wore a Braves cap to the rally, told the crowd, "Can't wait to see y'all there (and) show them what a real fan base is."

Defensive Back Patrick Chung took a video with the crowd chanting "Beat LA!" in the background. Special teams captain Matthew Slater, whose father played 20 years for the Rams and is a member of the team's Hall of Fame,



New England Patriots fans hold placards during an NFL football Super Bowl send-off rally for the team, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

said he grew up rooting for the team he will face when he tries for his third Super Bowl victory.

"But on Sunday, I don't know nothing about no Rams," he said. □

Venier wins crash-interrupted downhill World Cup, Goggia 2nd

By CIARAN FAHEY

Associated Press

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — Austrian skier Stephanie Venier edged Olympic champion Sofia Goggia to win her first World Cup in a crash-interrupted downhill race that was ended early on Sunday.

The race finished with 10 skiers still waiting to descend the Kandahar course after Federica Sosio became the seventh competitor to crash after a jump. The 24-year-old Sosio was taken to the local hospital by helicopter.

The Italian team said Sosio suffered a broken left leg. Federica Brignone, another to crash at the same spot, was also hospitalized but tests showed no damage to her right knee.

Goggia said her own successful return from injury was overshadowed by Sosio's injury.

"One of my teammates got injured so I have lots of emotions. One is my result,



From left, second placed Italy's Sofia Goggia, the winner Austria's Stephanie Venier, and third placed Germany's Kira Weidle celebrate on podium after completing an alpine ski, women's World Cup downhill race in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

my performance, and the pain and the sadness from this crash," Goggia said. "It's always sad."

Venier finished 0.25 seconds quicker than Goggia, who was also second in Saturday's super-G. Gog-

gia was competing for the first time since she broke a bone in her right ankle while training in October.

"I came here to Garmisch and wanted to take a step forward in relation to my ankle — also with a view to

the upcoming world championships. It's not good to set expectations too high. I knew how it felt going into every turn," said Goggia, who only returned to training around two weeks ago. "I'm happy with the prog-

ress I made."

Kira Weidle delighted home fans by finishing third, 0.54 seconds behind. She was ahead of Swiss skier Corinne Suter, who was fastest in the first training run Thursday, and Slovenia's Ilka Stuhec, who will defend her world title in downhill at the world championships in Are, Sweden next month.

Venier was third in a downhill at Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy the previous weekend. "I felt very good today. I was very relaxed at the start, the flat upper part was very agreeable and the jump went very far. I actually had nothing to lose," the 25-year-old Venier said. "I never thought I'd finish ahead of Sofia Goggia."

There was disappointment for Venier's teammates Ramona Siebenhofer, who had been going for her third consecutive downhill win after back-to-back victories in Cortina, and Nicole Schmidhofer, going for her third win of the season. □

Palace knocks Tottenham out of FA Cup, Chelsea advances

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Tottenham exited its second competition in four days after losing 2-0 at Crystal Palace in the fourth round of the FA Cup on Sunday, and defending champion Chelsea was boosted by two video reviews in beating Sheffield Wednesday 3-0.

Palace took a ninth-minute lead when Jeff Schlupp's shot was saved by Paulo Gazzaniga but the Spurs goalkeeper could only push the ball into the path of Connor Wickham and he scored off his thigh.

The hosts extended their advantage after Kyle Walker-Peters handled in the penalty area with Wickham lurking. Former Tottenham winger Andros Townsend slammed the resulting spot kick straight down the middle in the 34th.

Tottenham got a penalty of its own 10 minutes later when Patrick Van Aanholt brought down Juan Foyth, but Kieran Trippier fired well wide to ensure the Eagles



Tottenham's Juan Foyth fights for the ball with Crystal Palace's Wilfried Zaha, right, during an English FA Cup fourth round soccer match between Crystal Palace and Tottenham Hotspur at Selhurst Park in London, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

took a 2-0 lead into the break, and then survived a second half dominated by Tottenham.

Chelsea beat Tottenham in a penalty shootout on

Thursday in the English League Cup semifinals after a 2-1 victory for Chelsea at Stamford Bridge left the two sides level 2-2 on aggregate.

The fifth-round draw takes place Monday.

POSITIVE POCHETTINO

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino tried to look on the bright side after

the defeat to Palace.

"Of course, disappointed because, after Thursday and today again, out of two competitions. You feel disappointed. You can't feel anything different," Pochettino said.

"But now we have to be positive. We are still in two competitions, in a good position in the Premier League and the Champions League is a massive motivation for the whole club. We have to be strong."

Tottenham, which is third in the Premier League, hosts Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of the Champions League round of 16 on Feb. 13.

Reacting to the constant pressure for silverware, Pochettino said: "People wish we could win some trophies.

But being realistic, we are doing so well. To win a title here in England like the FA Cup or Carabao (League) Cup is about being lucky, not only about quality in your squad." □

Alonso anchors victory in first Rolex 24 stopped for rain

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Fernando Alonso deftly maneuvered through some of the most dangerous driving conditions of his career to grab another victory in a bucket-list event.

Alonso drove a Cadillac DPi to the front of the field in each of his three stints in the Rolex 24 at Daytona, including the final pass for the lead in a heavy rain, on a slick track, with almost no visibility. The race was red-flagged minutes after Alonso put Wayne Taylor Racing out front, and IMSA pulled the plug about two hours later.

The decision to call the race came 10 minutes before the scheduled conclusion and marked the first time rain prevented the Rolex from going the full 24 hours. It also was the first time in race history the event was stopped twice for red flags for rain.

Alonso was sitting under a blanket on the Taylor pit stand when the race was called.

"It's too bad we didn't get to race the full distance, but we led the race in night, day, dry, wet, so I think we all kind of deserve this one," he said.

Alonso joined Phil Hill (1964)



Cars from the IMSA 24-hour race sit idle on pit road after the race was red-flagged because of rain at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

and Mario Andretti (1972) as F1 champions who also won the most prestigious sports car event in North America. Alonso, who has two F1 titles, retired from that series in November.

The Spaniard now has won the Rolex, the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Monaco Grand Prix. The next big event on his schedule is the Indianapolis 500 in May, the one victory he needs to complete auto racing's unofficial version of the Triple Crown.

Wayne Taylor Racing now has four overall Rolex victories. The team won in 1996 and 2005 with team owner Wayne Taylor driving, and Jeff Gordon was part of its 2017 victory. The team this year brought in Alonso and Kamui Kobayashi, teammates on the Le Mans victory last June, to join full-time drivers Jordan Taylor and Renger van der Zande. Jordan Taylor was part of the winning team two years ago.

Alex Zanardi's return to a

North American race for the first time since his legs were severed in a 2001 crash was hampered by mechanical problems, including an early electrical issue with the BMW-designed steering wheel that allowed the Italian to race without his prosthetic legs. Zanardi used the wheel to accelerate, brake, shift and communicate with the car. Even though the Bobby Rahal-owned team finished 18 laps down in the GT Le Mans class, the ven-

ture was a success. Zanardi drove three times totaling 6 hours, 17 minutes; his final stint was disrupted by the heavy rain at daybreak.

"He shows very clearly that life isn't over and you can still go out and live and do whatever it is you want," Rahal said.

Rahal's second BMW M8 entry won the GTLM class with Augusto Farfus, Connor De Phillippi, Phillipp Eng and Colton Herta.

The LMP2 class was won by the No. 18 DragonSpeed Oreca with drivers Roberto Gonzalez, Pastor Maldonado, Sebastian Saavedra and Ryan Cullen, while the No. 11 Grasser Racing Team Lamborghini Huracan won the GT Daytona class for the second consecutive year with Rolf Ineichen, Mirko Bortolotti, Christian Englehart and Rik Breukers. Alonso, meanwhile, was the heavyweight in the Wayne Taylor lineup and dazzled every time he got into the Cadillac. He competed in the Rolex last year as a warmup for Le Mans but returned this time intent on winning the Rolex watch. His first time in the rotation Saturday night was a triple stint in which he took the lead away from both of Roger Penske's Acura entries. □

Ogier wins Monte Carlo Rally in closest-ever finish

MONACO (AP) — In the closest-ever finish to the Monte Carlo Rally, world champion Sebastien Ogier beat main rival Thierry Neuville by just 2.2 seconds on Sunday to win the season-opening race.

It was the six-time world champion's sixth straight win at Monte Carlo — and seventh overall.

Ogier's victory also gave Citroen a symbolic 100th win in rally history. The 35-year-old Frenchman has re-joined Citroen, after racing for the French manufacturer at the start of his career before joining Volkswagen and then Ford.

Ogier led by 4.3 seconds overnight, but was hampered by a throttle prob-

lem and Neuville closed the gap to 0.4 seconds before Ogier pulled away from the Belgian driver at the end.

"It is the rally I want to win the most in the season, that is why I am so happy now," Ogier said. "It was tough today because we had a problem with a sticking throttle which was pushing the car when I was on the brakes. Six years in a row with three different cars — that's not so bad."

Neuville is seeking his first world title after finishing runner-up four times to Ogier, including the past three years driving for Hyundai.

"It was a close fight," the 30-year-old Neuville said. "But we gave him a nice

present on Friday when we made a mistake and gave him the lead."

Drivers dealt with tricky conditions, notably ice and dry asphalt in the mountainous areas.

Estonian driver Ott Tanak completed the podium, but the Toyota driver trailed more than two minutes behind Ogier.

Nine-time world champion Sebastien Loeb, who only drives occasionally in rally since retiring, finished in fourth place. The 44-year-old Frenchman's winning reign ended with a ninth straight title in 2012, and then Ogier's overall title-winning streak started.

The next race is Rally Sweden from February 14-17. □



In this Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 file photo, French driver Sebastien Ogier on M-Sport Ford speaks to the media prior to the start of the 86th Monte Carlo Rally, in Monaco.

Associated Press

Facebook's murky data-sharing practices

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Zuckerberg's latest attempt to explain Facebook's data-sharing practices is notable for its omissions as well as what it plays up and plays down.

In a Wall Street Journal op-ed Thursday titled "The Facts About Facebook," the CEO doubles down on previous talking points while leaving out, for example, a potential Federal Trade Commission investigation over its privacy practices.

Here's look at Zuckerberg's claims in the op-ed:

ZUCKERBERG: "We don't sell people's data." — Jan. 24, 2019.

THE FACTS: Sure, Facebook doesn't technically "sell" your information. Instead, it rents it out, gives it away and sometimes just doesn't know how to protect it, as we've seen with Cambridge Analytica and other mishaps.

And while Facebook doesn't sell user data directly to third parties, it makes



In this May 23, 2018 file photo, Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg smiles during a picture with guests attending the "Tech for Good" Summit at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

Associated Press

money from the information. Advertisers choose the types of users they want to reach, based on their location, age and even their political leanings and presumed ethnicity. Face-

book identifies which users fit the criteria and shows those people the ads. So technically the information stays with Facebook, but it's used to do the advertiser's bidding.

And as the Cambridge Analytica scandal revealed, Facebook has been sharing data with third parties. In that case, a political data-mining firm, Cambridge Analytica, managed to

get data on as many as 87 million Facebook users through a personality-quiz app that was purportedly a research tool. With apps, Facebook isn't selling data — it's giving the data to makers of apps for free.

ZUCKERBERG: "People consistently tell us that if they're going to see ads, they want them to be relevant."

THE FACTS: Zuckerberg doesn't say how people were posed this question or how the user surveys were conducted.

He does say that to comply with new European data rules, Facebook had asked users for permission to use data to improve ads. In such cases, he says, "the vast majority agreed because they prefer more relevant ads."

But framing the issue as one of relevance to users glosses over Facebook's business model of allowing companies to target advertisements based on people's information. □

Researchers say Amazon face-detection technology shows bias

By **TALI ARBEL**

NEW YORK (AP) — Facial-detection technology that Amazon is marketing to law enforcement often misidentifies women, particularly those with darker skin, according to researchers from MIT and the University of Toronto.

Privacy and civil rights advocates have called on Amazon to stop marketing its Rekognition service because of worries about discrimination against minorities. Some Amazon investors have also asked the company to stop out of fear that it makes Amazon vulnerable to lawsuits.

The researchers said that in their tests, Amazon's technology labeled darker-skinned women as men 31 percent of the time. Lighter-skinned women were misidentified 7 percent of the time. Darker-skinned men had a 1 percent error rate, while lighter-skinned men had none.

Artificial intelligence can mimic the biases of their



This Sept. 6, 2012, file photo, shows the Amazon logo. A new study says Amazon's facial-detection technology often misidentifies women, particularly those with darker skin.

Associated Press

human creators as they make their way into everyday life. The new study, released late Thursday, warns of the potential of abuse and threats to privacy and civil liberties from facial-detection technology.

Matt Wood, general manager of artificial intelligence with Amazon's cloud-computing unit, said the study uses a "facial analysis" and not "facial recognition" technology. Wood said facial analysis

"can spot faces in videos or images and assign generic attributes such as wearing glasses; recognition is a different technique by which an individual face is matched to faces in videos and images."

In a Friday post on the Medium website, MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini responded that companies should check all systems that analyze human faces for bias.

"If you sell one system that has been shown to have bias on human faces, it is doubtful your other face-based products are also completely bias free," she wrote.

Amazon's reaction shows that it isn't taking the "really grave concerns revealed by this study seriously," said Jacob Snow, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. Buolamwini and Inioluwa Deborah Raji of the University of Toronto said they studied Amazon's technology because the company has marketed it to law enforcement. Raji's LinkedIn account says she is currently a research mentee for artificial intelligence at Google, which competes with Amazon in offering cloud-computing services. □

Even with IRS staffers returning, tax refunds may be delayed

By MARCY GORDON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The IRS' workforce will return to full strength under the short-term deal to reopen the government struck Friday by President Donald Trump and congressional leaders. But the disruption from the partial shutdown and the recent absence of a large contingent of recalled IRS employees mean the possibility of delayed tax refunds.

The official start of the tax filing season is Monday, and the Trump administration has said taxpayers who are owed refunds would receive them on time despite the shutdown. The administration made money available to pay hundreds of billions in refunds and ordered

nearly 60 percent of the Internal Revenue Service workforce back to work without pay.

But fewer than half of 26,000 furloughed IRS employees who were recalled to work during the shutdown to handle tax returns and taxpayers' questions had returned to their jobs as of Tuesday, according to congressional and government aides. Of the roughly 14,000 recalled employees who hadn't reported to work, IRS officials told House staffers Thursday, around 5,000 sought permission under their union contract to be absent because of financial hardship. The remaining 9,000 couldn't be reached by IRS managers. In addition to the 35-day shutdown, the complexi-



Scott, a furloughed government worker with the IRS volunteers his time to hand out free food and supplies to other furloughed government workers affected by the shutdown at World Central Kitchen, the not-for-profit organization started by Chef Jose Andres, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 in Washington.

Associated Press

ties of a new tax law have burdened an IRS that has been starved for funding for years. Getting refunds out in time could be a heavy lift.

"Just because you reopen the government, doesn't mean that on Day 1 everything is normal," said Jorge Castro, a former counselor to the IRS commissioner

and senior counsel to the Senate Commerce Committee who is now at the law firm Miller & Chevalier. "There's still a backlog. The IRS has not been at full capacity in its operations for over a month."

About three-quarters of U.S. taxpayers receive annual refunds. Lower-income households, in particular, depend on refunds as their biggest cash infusion of the year.

Beyond refunds, no audits of tax returns were being done during the shutdown because IRS auditors were furloughed. That's a double-edged problem: A lack of inspections could invite cheating, and the money normally captured by audits isn't flowing to the national coffers. □

Economy likely to pick up, though pain may linger for some

By JOSH BOAK

BALTIMORE (AP) — The U.S. economy will likely resume its steady growth now that the government has reopened, though economists say some scars — for the nation and for federal workers — will take time to heal.

Most analysts estimate that the 35-day partial shutdown shaved a few tenths of a percentage point from annual economic growth in the first three months of 2019. They say growth should pick up in the coming months, though some of the money federal workers and contractors didn't spend in the past five weeks — on such items as movie tickets, restaurants and travel — will never be made up. Having gone without two paychecks, many federal workers were forced to visit food banks or to borrow money. Federal workers will now receive backpay, though some contractors might not.

President Donald Trump agreed to reopen the government for three weeks after having forced the shutdown in hopes of compelling Democrats to approve billions for a wall on the Mexico border. Trump failed to secure any such

money.

During the shutdown, a shortage of airport security and air traffic controllers disrupted travel at such major hubs as LaGuardia Airport in New York and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. The pressure on Trump to reopen the government intensified Friday after a delay of about 3,000 flights by mid-afternoon because six of 13 air traffic controllers didn't show up to work at a critical center in Virginia. S&P Global Ratings estimates that the economy lost \$6 billion because of the government closure — a sizable but relatively negligible sum in a \$19 trillion-plus U.S. economy.

"If the shutdown had lasted much longer, the economic impacts would have snowballed — travel problems, tax refunds, etc.," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities.

Still, the damage isn't likely to lift immediately. And some federal employees had expressed anxiety during the shutdown about the stability and security of their jobs. The most skilled or talented among them may be likelier to leave government service, a potential

problem for an economy already facing worker shortages in some areas.

Job searches by employees at multiple federal agencies jumped during the shutdown, according to clicks tracked by the jobs site Indeed. Employees who had gone unpaid at the Department of Homeland Security, Census Bureau, the IRS and the Transportation Safety Administration were much more likely to be hunting for a new job compared with the past two years of searches. □



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of N.Y., accompanied by Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, calls on a reporter during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

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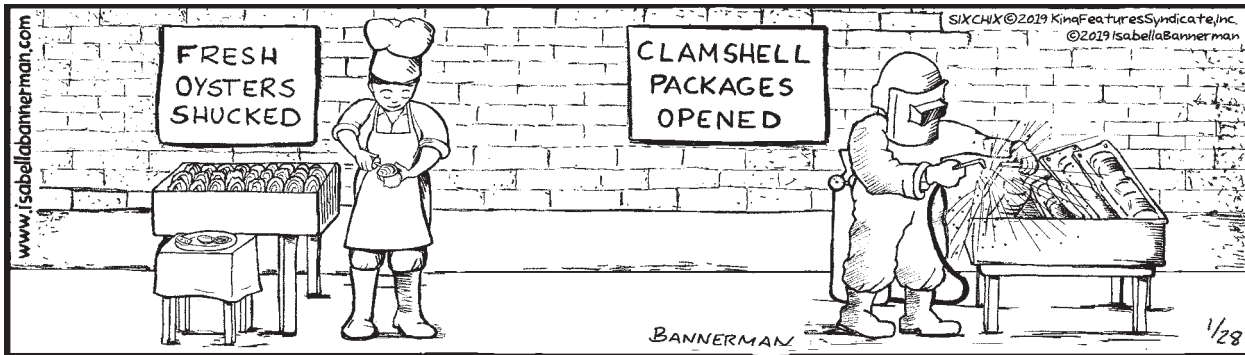
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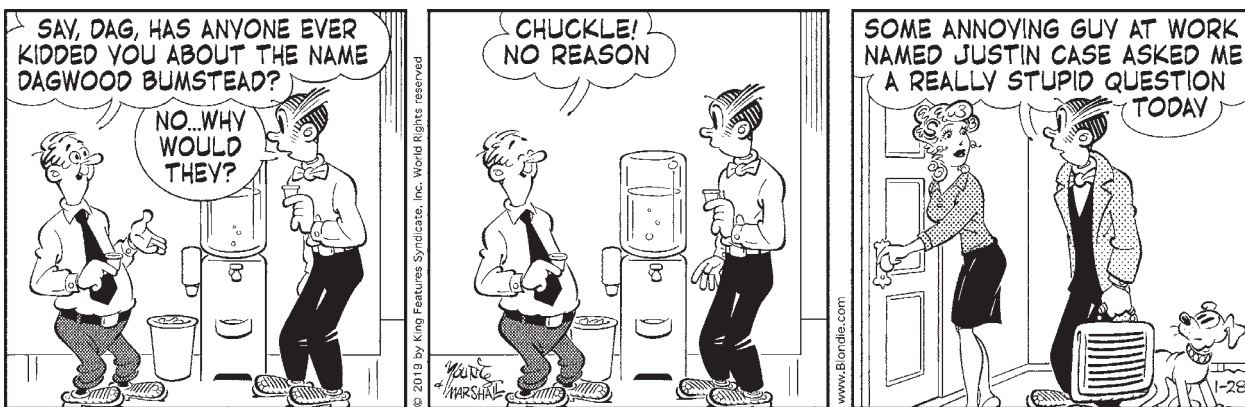
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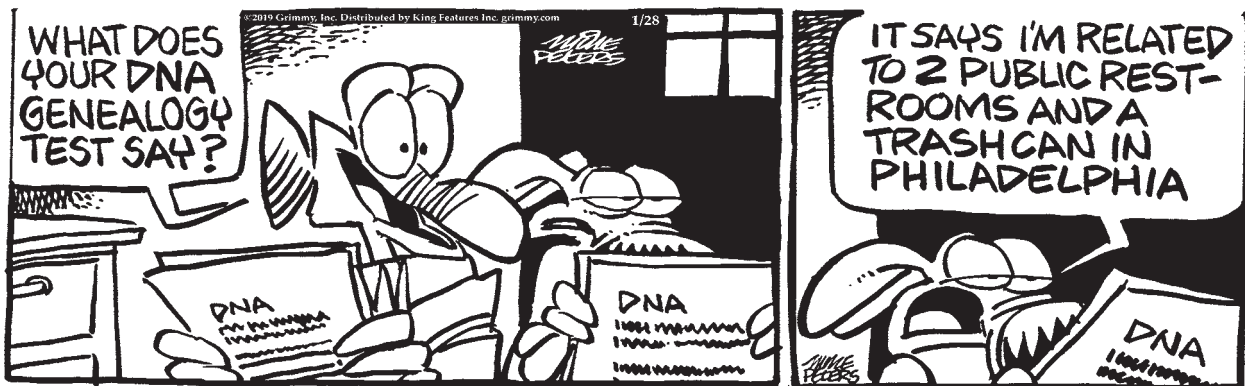
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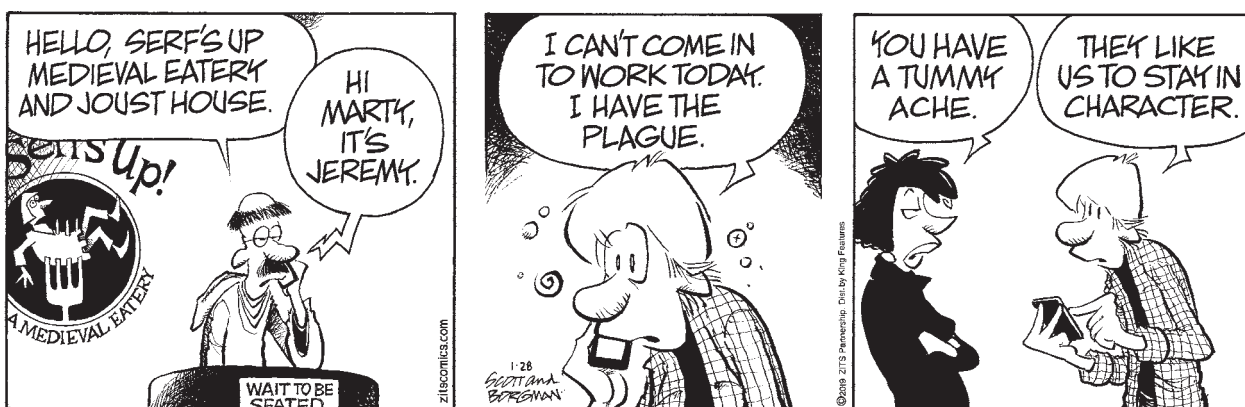
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4	8				6			3
		2	5		1	4		9
	5			8			7	
2	3						9	
		7	3		9	1		
	4						6	2
	1			9			5	
7		5	6		8	9		
3			2				1	7

Difficulty Level ★

1/28

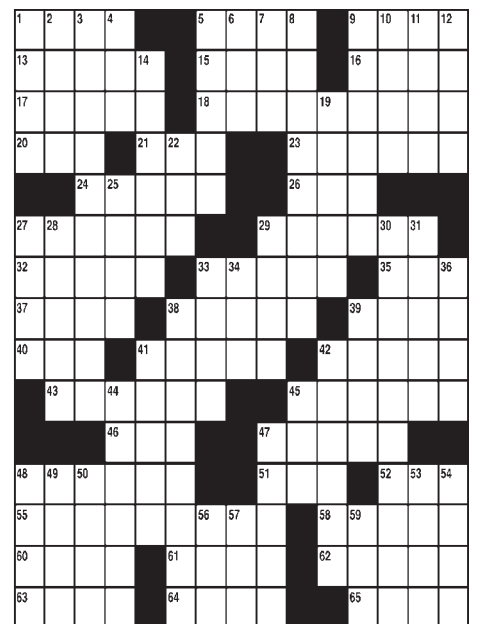
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

4	9	1	6	3	8	7	5	2
8	7	5	9	4	2	3	6	1
3	6	2	1	5	7	8	9	4
7	4	3	2	8	6	9	1	5
2	8	9	4	1	5	6	7	3
1	5	6	7	9	3	2	4	8
5	2	4	8	6	9	1	3	7
9	1	8	3	7	4	5	2	6
6	3	7	5	2	1	4	8	9

ACROSS

- Impartial
- Skin mark
- 9 __ up; misbehaves
- Type of eclipse
- Salary
- Radar screen image
- __ drop of a hat; immediately
- __ of; next to
- Taro root paste
- Word after bowling or rolling
- Fled and wed
- __ and groans; complains
- Simple card game
- Lesser-known facts & details
- Morsel
- Passenger
- Dried fruit
- Cow's comment
- As straight __ arrow
- For the time __; meanwhile
- Stretch across
- Teacher's favorite
- "Blue __ Shoes"; Elvis hit
- Loop with a slipknot
- Clergyman
- Seashores
- "Now I __ me down to sleep..."
- Hideaways
- Large antelope
- Want __; newspaper section
- "What'll __"; Irving Berlin song
- Afflicted
- Receded
- Clippety__
- Scuttie chunk
- Crab Louie or coleslaw
- Chops down
- Days of __; yesteryear
- Cincinnati team



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/28/19

DOWN

- Envelope part
- Car
- Cow; frighten
- Cheerleader's cry
- Waterbirds
- Coolidge, for one
- Not long __; recently
- Revitalizing
- Soak up
- Cut coupons
- Movement of the waves
- Ran fast
- Fix
- Air freshener brand
- __ nutshell; briefly
- Jenn-Air appliance
- Ensnare
- Early __; one up at dawn
- Melody
- Out of the question
- Browned bread
- One's equal

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

BRAD	STRIP	CRAIG
LANE	THEDA	EARL
ACTS	RESISTANCE	
BEA	RAFT	ASTHE
	GAUNT	PRE
ELOPED	VERSES	
LINED	GOOEY	SAT
MAID	TRAWL	SPRY
SRS	PEEKS	SNEAK
STARRY	GAUCHE	
	RIM	ALIBI
PHOTO	CLOD	ALL
RIVERBOATS	BLUE	
OVER	ALIAS	ELKS
DENY	HENRY	EYES

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1/28/19

- Get __ of; shed
- Singles
- Tendency to float
- Fly high
- No longer fresh
- Sounds
- Vises
- Womanizer
- Serving implement
- Heat rash symptom
- Internal spy
- Ship's bow
- No longer with us
- Probability
- "__ many cooks spoil the broth"
- Cornucopia
- Saloon

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year
1 BR WK# 2 room # G303 Odd
year
1 BR WK# 3 room # B203 even
year
1 BR WK# 3 room # G108 Odd
year.
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Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 1
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1 BR WK # 1 and 2
32 weeks remain \$ 9000 each
Studio wk # 5 and 6
25 and 30 Weeks remain \$
17,000 Both

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 4 and 5
25 and 30 weeks remain \$ 9000
each
1 BR WK # 4
20 weeks remain \$9000

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Rare pangolins languish in China wildlife rescue system

By CHRISTINA LARSON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Chinese police found them in the trunk of a smuggler's car, 33 of the trafficked pangolins — endangered scaly mammals from southern China — were still alive, wrapped in plastic bags soaked with their own urine. But the fate of the creatures — whose scales are worth nearly their weight in silver on the black market — was not a happy one. Every last pangolin died in government captivity within a few months of the August 2017 seizure.

A pioneering environmental nonprofit in Beijing has launched an investigation, called "counting pangolins," to figure out what happens to such animals recovered from the illegal wildlife trade. Its findings so far highlight discrepancies between environmental laws and outcomes.

China is hardly unique. The number of environmental laws on the books worldwide has increased 38-fold since 1972, according to an exhaustive U.N. Environment report released Thursday. But the political will and capacity to enforce those laws often lags — undermining global efforts to curb issues like wildlife trafficking, air pollution and climate change, the report found.

"The law doesn't self-execute," said Carl Bruch, a study co-author and director of international programs at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C.

Each of the 33 pangolins transferred to the care of a government-run wildlife rescue center in China's Guangxi province died within three months — according to records ob-



In this Friday, March 16, 2018 file photo, a pangolin from the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital is taken to a nearby field to forage for food near Johannesburg.

Associated Press

tained by the nonprofit China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation and shown to the Associated Press.

What's still unclear is what happened to their bodies. Pangolins are insect-eating, scaly mammals — playfully described by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as "resembling an artichoke with legs and a tail." Their scales — made of keratin, the same material in human finger nails — are in high demand for Chinese traditional medicine, to purportedly cure arthritis, promote breast-feeding for mothers, and boost male virility, although there is no scientific backing for these beliefs.

The price of pangolin scales in China has risen from \$11 per kilogram (2.2 pounds) in the 1990s to \$470 in 2014, according to researchers at Beijing Forestry University. Scientists have designated all eight species of pango-

lins as being at risk of extinction — four species in Asia, and four in Africa. More than 1 million pangolins were trafficked between 2004 and 2014 — for their scales, meat and blood — with China and Vietnam as the largest markets. In the last two decades, the number of pangolins worldwide has dropped by about 90 percent.

In 2016, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) adopted a worldwide ban on commercial trade in pangolins, and China later approved that ban. Pangolins are also listed as a protected species in China. While Chinese state-run media have publicized a few high-profile poacher busts, watchdogs say a thriving black market for endangered-animal parts persists.

In November 2017, customs officials in Shenzhen seized 13.1 tons (11.9 metric tonnes) of pangolin scales — reportedly the largest-ever seizure of scales from Africa — according to state media. The penalties offenders face are not always publicized, but in another case involving a smaller shipment of scales, two smugglers received prison sentences of five years, state media said.

"It's significant that China

has adopted laws against trade in many endangered species, but the law itself isn't enough to protect a species from extinction," said Jinfeng Zhou, director of the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation. Zhou wants the government to issue public records tracking all living and dead pangolins seized by authorities — and to offer evidence that contraband, including pangolin scales, is destroyed before it enters black markets.

"We are determined to know what happens to the pangolins," said Sophia Zhang, a researcher at the biodiversity group. After reading news reports about the August 2017 poaching bust, she filed information requests to government agencies and traveled to Guangxi to visit the wildlife rescue center.

The Guangxi Forestry Department, which manages the wildlife rescue center, declined AP's requests for an interview and comment. China's state-run news service Xinhua reported in December 2018 that China remains committed to stopping pangolin trafficking, noting there were 209 pangolin smuggling busts from 2007 to 2016.

Less official attention has been paid to what happens after these busts.

In Guangxi, Zhang saw that pangolins were kept in small cages and fed cat food at the wildlife center, whereas wild pangolins eat termites. She said she had tried to coordinate with Save Vietnam's Wildlife, a nonprofit, to bring shipments of termites to feed the pangolins, but the center declined the offer.

After the animals died, the center wouldn't reveal what happened to their scaly bodies. But in other instances, the same center has turned over live pangolins to industry groups — including a steel factory in Guangdong province and a farm associated with a Chinese traditional medicine center in Jiangxi province. The government released this information on its web site.

In response to an information request from Zhang, the Guangxi Forestry Department sent copies of the licenses held by these organizations for handling pangolins. The reason for transferring pangolins remains unclear.

"We want the wildlife center to provide a full explanation," Zhang said. "We know the trade in pangolins is very lucrative. The public should be able to know what happens."

The biodiversity nonprofit has filed information requests about trafficked wildlife in nearly 30 Chinese provinces and has attempted to verify what happens to pangolin scales seized by customs officials. Zhang said wildlife rescue centers need better training to properly handle live animals.

"China has a rather complete set of environmental laws," said Barbara Finamore, the senior strategic director for Asia at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington, DC. "But environmental laws are not worth the paper they're written on unless there's also strong enforcement and oversight."

Countries large and small, rich and poor, have passed extensive green legislation since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. □



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Russell Baker, author and NY Times columnist is dead at 93

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — Russell Baker, the genial, but sharp-witted writer who won Pulitzer Prizes for his humorous columns in The New York Times and a moving autobiography of his impoverished Baltimore childhood and later hosted television's "Masterpiece Theatre," has died. He was 93.

Allen Baker told The Associated Press that his father died on Monday from complications after a fall.

In his later years, Baker lived in Leesburg, Virginia, not far from the rural Loudoun County community where he was born. His family later moved to New Jersey and Baltimore.

Amiable and approachable, but also clear-eyed and street smart, Baker enjoyed a decades-long career as reporter, columnist, critic and on-air personality. He won Pulitzers in 1979 for the "Observer," the Times column he wrote for 35 years, and in 1983 for his autobiography "Growing Up."

The Great Depression and World War II shaped Baker's early life. He began his career as a reporter in 1947 and rose to become a national New York Times reporter in Washington, D.C., in 1954.

He covered Congress, the military and State Department during the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations before tiring, he would recall, of waiting for politicians to come out of meeting rooms and lie to him. He drew upon those experiences for his column, writing as a curious and wide-eyed outsider who could leave an adversary buried under the weight of common sense.

"On television we see President Reagan in a cave. It is the Mammoth Cave, one of America's great caves. The TV news reader says the President has come there to create 'a photo opportunity.' Here is President Reagan on television again. He is looking at a bald eagle. The President and the eagle are in the same room enjoying 'a photo opportunity,' according to the TV

news voice," Baker wrote in 1984.

"His environmental policy has been characterized by a reluctance to do anything that would create difficulty for the business community. It is entirely possible to defend this position with persuasive argument. The President of the cave and the eagle, however, is not defending a sensibly thought-out policy; he is being used to deceive us into thinking that he is what he, in fact, is not."

Baker didn't ask to be called a humorist. During a 1994 speech in Hartford, Connecticut, he said his goal for the "Observer" was to render the federal government, politics and diplomacy accessible through plain, easy-to-read language. It was to be more widely appealing than the "High-Church, polysyllabic" writing common in The New York Times.

"Well, as I soon discovered, in those days if you wrote short sentences and plain English in the Times, everybody naturally assumed you were being funny," he said in the speech.

Baker's targets included his own profession. "Those who expected me to have something to say had obviously never heard the classic definition of a newspaper man: 'A man with nothing on his mind and the power to express it,'" he said during the Hartford speech.

He wrote a second autobiography, "The Good Times," to follow "Growing Up." The first focused on his childhood, the second on his early journalistic career. Baker would eventually write, edit or contribute to more than 15 other books, collections and assorted works — including a musical play and children's book.

Baker was born in 1925 to stonemason Benjamin Baker and schoolteacher Lucy Elizabeth Baker. He married Miriam Emily Nash in 1950 and had three children: Kathleen, Allen and Michael.

Benjamin Baker died of untreated diabetes when his

son was 5. Lucy Baker struggled through the Great Depression as a single mother living in Baltimore.

Russell Baker remembered his mother as a key influence driving him to succeed.

"She would make me make something of myself whether I wanted to or not," he wrote in "Growing Up."

Baker served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1943 to 1945 and was trained as a pilot during World War II. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1947 and began his journalism career that year as a police reporter with The Baltimore Sun. He became the newspaper's London bureau chief in 1953.

Baker took over as "Masterpiece Theatre's" host in



In this Tuesday, Feb. 23, 1993 file photo, writer Russell Baker, ponders a reporter's question during a New York news conference where he was presented as the successor to host Alistair Cooke for the PBS series "Masterpiece Theatre."

Associated Press

1993, succeeding Alistair Cooke, and remained until 2004. Baker's on-air commentary for public televi-

sion focused on providing critical perspectives on featured works along with historical context. □

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Everything is pretty good in 'The LEGO Movie 2'

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

"The LEGO Movie" is a hard act to follow. Its world was so fresh and vibrant and unexpected, it's no wonder that it spawned a number of spinoffs of varying quality. But the big test was always going to be the sequel and whether or not it could recreate the magic of the first. And I'm pleased to report that "The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part" is pretty darn good, but also you can't help shake the feeling that it's just never going to live up to the exciting newness of the first. The script, written by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, is once again whip-smart. Jokes and clever pop culture references whizz by at lightning speed and you'll be lucky to catch even half of them on the first watch. Even the songs (there are a few more this time) are packed with Lord and Miller wit. And you'll definitely want to stay for the credits song which, oddly enough, is one of the best parts of the movie despite not really being part of the movie.



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows the characters Batman, voiced by Will Arnett, from left, Metalbeard, voiced by Nick Offerman, Lucy/Wyldstyle, voiced by Elizabeth Banks and Unikitty, voiced by Alison Brie, in a scene from "The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part."

Associated Press

But there's something that's lost in this round. With a new director at the helm in Mike Mitchell ("Trolls," "Sky High") you sense sometimes that the film is just going through the motions. Still, it has charm and winking fun to spare and kids will likely adore it just as much. The movie starts by establishing the introduction of a little sister, and all the chaos and destruction and cuteness that implies. Her LEGOs are oversized and adorable, and really throw the more traditional LEGOs

of the brother's world for a loop, wrecking all the meticulous buildings of Bricksburg. An abrupt cut to five years later finds Emmet (Chris Pratt), Wyldstyle/Lucy (Elizabeth Banks), Batman (Will Arnett), Unikitty (Alison Brie), Benny (Charlie Day), Metalbeard (Nick Offerman) and all the favorites of the first living in a "Mad Max" homage they call Apocalypseburg (which they say is "grittier and cooler" than Bricksburg). Emmet is still Emmet, though, bright,

cheery and optimistic even while everyone else is brooding and scowling. He even builds a cookie cutter house for himself and Lucy with a picket fence, a front yard, and a toaster room, you know, so they can eat toaster waffles anytime. Lucy tells Emmet she wishes he could grow up, like her, but before their fight is resolved, aliens from the Sistar system attack and take Lucy, Batman, Benny and Unikitty hostage for a marriage ceremony on their planet. Left behind, Emmet goes off to rescue them and teams up with a new character, Rex Dangervest, who is also voiced by Pratt, in a very self-aware riff on his own movie stardom. He's a "galaxy-defending archaeologist, cowboy and raptor trainer" who enjoys showing off his "chiseled features that used to be hidden under baby fat." Rex's crew is made up entirely of velociraptors, who sound like the Jurassic Park/World velociraptors but here are given subtitles. It's an inspired bit that made me laugh every time. He

and the Sistar System people like General Mayhem (Stephanie Beatriz) and Queen Watevre Wa'Nabi (Tiffany Haddish) are all delightful, and refreshingly new. But the film does start to drag on just a bit, and even feel rather similar to "Toy Story 3" at times. It's not entirely their fault, once the real world element was revealed in the first "LEGO Movie," there are only so many directions you can go and the big stakes that all toys face being forgotten and the threat of being shoved away into storage. I'm not sure just how much more the studio can mine out of this concept that was once so brilliant. But happily, "The LEGO Movie 2" doesn't destroy everything the first worked so hard to build. It's just trying very hard to be exactly the same. "The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part," a Warner Bros. Pictures release is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for "for some rude humor." Running time: 106 minutes. Three stars out of four. □

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Leyla McCalla puts down cello for 'Capitalist Blues'



This cover image released by Matador shows "The Capitalist Blues," by Leyla McCalla.

Associated Press

By PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press
Leyla McCalla, "The Capi-

talist Blues" (PIAS/Jazz Village)
Look, Ma, no cello!

After a pair of albums on which New York-born Leyla McCalla accompanied herself on her trademark instrument, "The Capitalist Blues" finds her on the tenor banjo and electric guitar, deepening her musical ties to New Orleans, her adopted hometown, while further referencing her Haitian heritage. McCalla spices up her takes on relationships, everyday struggles and even the Syrian civil war with an alluring mix of styles, from R&B and boogie to zydeco and beyond. Recorded at Preservation Hall, a stalwart of the city's traditional jazz scene, the title track shows off the New Orleans side of things, not for the only time, with a strolling tempo, a rumbling tuba and worries that giving it all leaves you with little left to lose. □

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Wayne Newton celebrates 60 years in Las Vegas with new show

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Wayne Newton dropped out of high school his junior year to perform with his brother at a Las Vegas hotel. It was 1959, and he was too young to spend his breaks at the casino and too broke to eat dinner there.

Six decades later — with more than 30,000 live shows on the world-famous Las Vegas Strip alone — Newton is kicking off a new series of shows in the gambling mecca.

"Mr. Las Vegas" will mark his 60th anniversary with a return to Caesars Palace casino-resort. His show starts Monday with dates scheduled through May.

"It's hard for me to articulate, much less think about it," Newton told The Associated Press, referring to the anniversary. "I was here when Caesars (Palace) was built. This hotel for me has always represented the



In this Sept. 8, 2015, photo, Wayne Newton poses for a photo at his home in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

flagship of the Strip."

The "Danke Schoen" crooner will be backed by a live band during his "Wayne Newton: Up Close and Personal" shows. He will perform some of his favorite

tunes and share personal career highlights through songs, film clips, anecdotes and questions from the audience.

Newton's show was previously at a showroom at

Bally's casino-resort, but it ended in December as the venue shifted toward magic acts. The planned shows at Caesars will be at a showroom for 165 people, providing a more intimate

setting.

Newton, 76, asked the casino operator to lift the venue's age restriction to allow young people to attend.

"I promised myself when I left the lounges that I would never be in a room again that had those kinds of restrictions. There's nothing in our show that would offend anyone, even the youngsters," Newton said. "That doesn't mean that the show is geared to particularly that group, but it is geared not to exclude that group demographically."

Newton's success in Las Vegas began when a two-week tryout at the Fremont Hotel and Casino turned into lounge act of six shows per night, six nights a week for nearly a year. Newton earned national fame after a 1962 television appearance on "The Jackie Gleason Show."

He split with his brother, Jerry, in 1972 and continued to perform on his own. □

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